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ADULT AND CHILDREN'S TITLES
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ADULT

TOM BEAUJOUR & RICHARD BIENSTOCK

LOLLAPALOOZA: How A Traveling Rock & Roll Circus Launched the '90s Alternative Revolution
(Spring 2025)
Publishers: World English: St. Martin's

Authors of *NOTHIN' BUT A GOOD TIME*'s oral history of the Lollapalooza festival's pioneering 1991-1997 run and the rise of alternative rock, as well as the reverberations in the music industry and the culture at large. Featuring all-new interviews with Jane's Addiction, Pearl Jam, Soundgarden, Nine Inch Nails, Sonic Youth, Ice-T, Siouxsie and the Banshees, Rage Against the Machine, Tool, Butthole Surfers, Smashing Pumpkins, Henry Rollins, Ministry, Patti Smith, Alice in Chains, Primus, Pavement, Hole, Metallica, Jim Rose Circus Sideshow, Flaming Lips, Nick Cave and the Bad Seeds, Green Day, Fishbone, Dinosaur Jr., Ramones, The Breeders, L7, The Jesus Lizard, Guided By Voices, Devo, The Prodigy, Yo La Tengo, Korn, Babes in Toyland, Cypress Hill, Moby, Luscious Jackson, Incubus, Steve-O...and many more.

"In the tradition of Legs McNeil and Gillian McCain's *Please Kill Me* and their own *Nothin' But a Good Time*, Bienstock and Beaujour spliced together dozens of interviews with musicians, producers, staff, and others on the scene to craft an epic story of 1990s rock and roll as filtered through the heroin-hazy lens of the granddaddy of American music festivals... Essential addition to any rock history library." —**Kirkus**

"The Lollapalooza tour defined "alternative culture" in the nineties with lineups that bridged rock, hip-hop, and performance art. The book, *Lollapalooza*, collects the musicians' unbelievable-yet-true stories into an indispensable page turner and shows how a tour like Lollapalooza could never happen the same way again." —**Kory Grow, Rolling Stone**

"Lollapalooza defined a generation, and who better to hear it from than the people who lived it? A must-read." —**Daniel Kohn, SPIN**

"Drawing from an impressive array of interviews with band members, music journalists, and festival organizers, the authors vividly capture the chaos of the festival's early days...The result is a colorful, captivating slice of music history." —**Publishers Weekly**

"Lovers of 1990s alternative rock music... will enjoy this unflinching look at music festival culture and the rise and fall of alternative rock." —**Booklist**

JASON BUCHHOLZ

THE CARTOGRAPHER OF SANDS (October 2025)
Publishers: World English: Green City Books

Just before her high-school graduation, Lenore Percival leaves a short note on her bed—*I'm okay*—and sneaks out of her Berkeley home, carrying a backpack full of her grandfather's plant medicine. In his absence she has tried to learn how to administer it, but her only sources have been borrowed notebooks, dreams, and questionable visions, so her knowledge is spotty.

Lenore's parents send their sons: Leonardo, the professor; and Gabriel, the parolee, to track her down. The brothers' searches carry them in opposite directions—one north to the Oregon border, the other south to the Mexican border—as they search the length of California not just for their sister, but for the reasons why she left home. In their respective travels, the siblings find clues that carry them to the center of their family's mysterious legacy, a powerful healing tradition their ancestors brought from the heart of the Sonoran Desert.

In lyrical and precise prose, Buchholz conjures the lost horizons of the American West. *The Cartographer of Sands* charts the borderlands that lie between the US and Mexico, between family members and generations, between the ordinary and the mystical. Buchholz maps an undiscovered country of ancestral lineage, family connection, and existential revelation through characters who are at once familiar and profoundly mysterious.

Jason Buchholz is the author of the novel *A Paper Son* (Tyrus Books, 2016), which *Publisher's Weekly* described as “a gripping debut” and *Booklist* described as “wonderfully imaginative.” He is the co-founder of Collaborist, an editorial boutique that provides writing, editing, and educational services for aspiring and established authors. He was an editor and the art director of Achiote Press, and his poetry and short fiction have appeared in *Gobbledegook* and *Switchback*. Jason graduated from UC Berkeley and holds an MFA in creative writing from the University of San Francisco.

"*The Cartographer of Sands* is the story of the search for a young woman who vanishes under strange circumstances that leads the seekers to a place where myth and magic intersect. With radiant prose and an eye for the extraordinary, Jason Buchholz has crafted a beguiling mystery in the shifting sands of family history."
--**Jim Ruland, author of *Forest of Fortune***

“Mesmerizing and magical, perfect from the first page to the last.”
— **Pedro Hoffmeister, author of *American Afterlife***

"In *Cartographer*, Jason Buchholz charts the tremors of a family navigating secrets, mistakes, and the unknowable depths of their ancestry. Told with a lyrical hand and an eye for sensory detail, the story unfolds with no signposts—just the raw, immediate experience of characters living through what they cannot yet understand. This is a novel where the mystical brushes up against the mundane—where visions bloom behind truck stops, and the sacred slips into the everyday. Rich in specificity and a profound sense of place, *Cartographer* explores the ripple effects of seemingly unrelated choices, the shifting lines of identity and purpose, and the maps we draw to find our way back to ourselves and each other." -- **Nikki Van De Car, author of *The Invisible Wild***

MICHAEL COPPERMAN

SEEKING KENNY: A Wrestler's Journey (October 2026)

Publishers: North America: University of Iowa Press

Until the age of twenty-two, Kenny Cox's life had been encompassed by his extreme devotion to wrestling, to the gospel of total effort, and to the completion of a challenge--winning a wrestling match or tournament, giving one's all and then some, training to sustain a string of victories. When wrestling was no longer available to him, he wasn't sure who he was or how to live. “But what did you want to do, when you weren't wrestling—when you weren't devoted to something that took everything you had? And without wrestling,

who were you at all?" He became someone looking for peace, understanding, a woman who loved him, and a sense of purpose.

SEEKING EDEN considers the life and untimely death of five-time national championship wrestler Cox, who walked from Oregon to Baja on the coast, and on his return, sold his house and then ventured deep into the wilderness on Kauai, where he survived 70 days without supplies. Weeks after returning from this self-imposed isolation and declaring he'd found peace, he died at the age of 31. The book is in part about the toll of sports, including extreme weight-loss practices, on the lives of young athletes, especially within the particular subculture of wrestling that the author grew up immersed in, as he and Cox were teammates and friends. It is about the ways such an experience lends itself to a wilderness journey of survival, and it investigates the mystery of how Cox died and what it was that he was searching for. Think Krakauer's Into the Wild, or Roman Dial's The Adventurer's Son, with a narrator seeking to understand not just what happened to Kenny Cox, but to himself and others who dedicate themselves utterly to the pursuit of glory.

Above all, SEEKING EDEN is a fascinating communal (Cox's family, friends, romantic partners, fellow wrestlers) effort to recall and understand an inspiring and powerful and tragic figure. It's a meditation on life, loss, grief, faith, memory, and trying to figure out what's beyond the glory days. It's a book for anyone who has done something extremely intensely, and has then gone on with their life while always, inevitably, referring back to that defining period.

HEATHER FRESE

THE SADDEST GIRL ON THE BEACH

Publishers: World English: Blair Publishing (Spring 2024)

Grieving after her father's death, a young woman seeks solace in an Outer Banks beach town of North Carolina where her best friend's family runs a small inn.

The family welcomes Charlotte with chowder dinners and a cozy room, but her friend Evie has a looming life change of her own, and soon Charlotte seeks other attractions to navigate her grief. Will she, like in some television movie, find her way back through a romance, or are there larger forces at play on Hatteras Island? Heather Frese, winner of the Lee Smith Novel Prize and author of *The Baddest Girl on the Planet*, sets Charlotte on a beautifully rendered course through human frailty, unrelenting science, and the awesome forces of the Carolina coast.

Heather Frese is the author of *The Baddest Girl on the Planet*, which was the winner of the Lee Smith Novel Prize, longlisted for the Center for Fiction First Novel Prize, and was named a selection for the Women's National Book Association's Great Group Read.

"Like the best stories of grief, Frese's marvelous second novel is really a story of hard-earned hope. These pages quickly feel like home, or a Carolina beach you're never ready to leave." —**James Tate Hill, author of *Blind Man's Bluff***

"Heather Frese's latest novel, *The Saddest Girl on the Beach*, is a moving meditation on grief and the forces that both pull people together and tear them apart. The coastal setting is so rich and beautifully rendered, you can practically hear the waves, a rhythm that mirrors the highs and lows of loss and love." --- **Jill McCorkle, New York Times bestselling author of *Hieroglyphics* and *Life After Life***

"Surviving one's twenties is difficult enough without the unexpected death of a parent. Frese has written an invaluable guide to that experience, her protagonist a beacon like the lighthouses she loves, for herself, for her friends, for the life at the end of her labyrinth, and for the legacy her late father left in her. A must-read for anyone

navigating the loss of a parent at a young age. A must-read for anyone with a heart." —**Laura Carney, author of *My Father's List: How Living My Dad's Dreams Set Me Free***

"I really enjoyed the relationship dynamics between Charlotte and Nate and Michael and the reality of love as opposed to the romantic expectation. So well done, insightful and true." -- **Michele Young-Stone, author of O Magazine Book Pick, *Lost in the Beehive*, and *Above Us Only Sky***

FRED GOODMAN

THE LAST AMERICAN BOHEMIAN: The Fast Life and Slow Death of Jerry Garcia (2026)

Publishers: North America: Hachette; UK: Little, Brown

The first biography to consider the Garcia not as the key musician in a hugely popular band (which he was), but instead as one of the central figures of the American counterculture, and the only historically and artistically significant American bohemian of the post-war era besides Jack Kerouac and Allen Ginsberg. Goodman will interview Garcia's children, wives, bandmates, and other close associates to create a wider perspective on this important figure than what's been done before. The book will be for the Dead Heads, but it'll also ground Garcia's story 'not just in the Grateful Dead but in American culture and history.' Goodman sees this legendary figure as kin certainly to Kerouac and Ginsberg, but also as a spiritual heir to Whitman and Blake. 'He was a uniquely American iconoclast – an eager explorer and unrepentant outsider who planted his flag far from the mainstream yet ended up a popular icon -- and his story should be about both the country that produced him and his impact on that country.'

Fred Goodman is a veteran music and entertainment industry journalist and former *Rolling Stone* and *Billboard* editor. His previous books include THE MANSION ON THE HILL (Knopf, 1997), a *New York Times* notable book and winner of the Ralph J. Gleason Award for the Best Music Book, as well as several biographies, including the infamous music manager Allen Klein and the global music diva Lhasa de Sela. Goodman's book on Edgar Bronfman Jr.'s purchase of the Warner Music Group during the age of Napster, FORTUNE'S FOOL (S&S, 2014), was listed by the *Financial Times* for its Business Book of the Year. His most recent book is ROCK ON FILM: The Movies that Rocked the Big Screen (Running Press/Hachette, 2022). His work has appeared in *The New York Times*, *Vanity Fair*, *The Washington Post*, *New York*, *GQ*, *American History*, *Time*, *the Los Angeles Times*, and many other publications.

TOD LENDING

THE UMBRELLA MAKER'S SON (Winter 2025)

Publishers: North America: HarperCollins; Hungary: Scolar Kiado; Romania: BOOKZONE SRL; Slovenia: HKZ; Poland: Grupa Wydawnicza

The Umbrella Maker's Son follows the remarkable odyssey of 17 year old Reuven Berkowitz at the outset of World War II, whose family is sent into turmoil with the fall of Nazi bombs on their Jewish neighborhood of Kazmierze. It is only a matter of time before the family's umbrella making business, their apartment, their wealth and their dignity are destroyed by the Nazis. After a nighttime confrontation with an SS officer goes dangerously wrong, Reuven makes a harrowing escape from besieged Krakow to the countryside where he is taken in by a sympathetic Christian farmer and his demanding and antisemitic wife. From there, Reuven eventually journeys back to the horrors of the Nazi ghetto that Krakow has become in search of the young woman he has loved since childhood.

It's a gripping story of survival against all odds, guided by the transformative power of love.

Tod Lending is an Emmy award winner and Oscar nominated documentary producer. This is his literary debut.

"This powerful, heart-wrenching novel follows a young Polish Jew through his incredible journey to escape the Nazis. Reuven's story typifies that of millions of others experiencing the horrors and deprivations suffered by Jews in WWII and those who tried to help them. And yet, it is also an ultimately uplifting and inspiring tale of one man's coming of age in horrific times."

— **Heather Morris, #1 bestselling author of *The Tattooist of Auschwitz***

"[A] compelling and heartbreaking debut novel. At once well told and ineffably sad. Read it but keep your tissues handy." — ***Kirkus Reviews* (starred review)**

"This is a strikingly intense and superbly produced novel . . . This is one of the most absolutely memorable books I've ever read. Strongly recommended." — ***Historical Novel Society***

"Fans of Heather Morris and Lisa Barr will be captivated by Lending's story of resilience and romance, a must-have for historical fiction sections." — ***Library Journal***

"Lending eschews the sentimentality common to much recent Holocaust fiction, instead bringing the horrors of the period to visceral life." — ***Publishers Weekly***

"The author's sensational depiction of all the situations, emotions, and gut-wrenching events included in this saga are well done. *The Umbrella Maker's Son* is a brilliant, gut-wrenching story of love and family in war-torn Poland. A good producer could make it into a riveting movie."

—***New York Journal of Books***

"*The Umbrella Maker's Son* is a fascinating and memorable read!"

--***Bestsellers World Book Review***

DANIEL Z. LIEBERMAN and MICHAEL E. LONG

THE MOLECULE OF MORE (August 2018)

Publishers: World English: BenBella; Thailand: Amarin; Vietnam: Unicorn Books; Taiwan: FACES (division of Cite); China: CITIC; Korea: Sam & Parkers; Japan: Intershift; Spain: Planeta; Brazil: Sextante; Portugal: Presenca; Germany: MVG; Turkey: Epsilon; Romania: SC Publica Com SRL; Poland: Wydawnictwo JK; Czech Republic: Dokoran; Lithuania: Kita Pespektyva; Bulgaria: Skyprint; Russia: AST; Slovak: Albatros; Croatia: Planetopija; Iraq/Arabic: Nabu Publishers; Italy: DeAgostini; France: First Editions.

Why are we obsessed with the things we want only to be bored when we get them?

Why is addiction perfectly logical to an addict?

Why does love change so quickly from passion to indifference?

Why are some people die-hard liberals and others hardcore conservatives?

Why are we always hopeful for solutions even in the darkest times--and so good at figuring them out?

The answer is found in a single chemical in your brain: dopamine. Dopamine ensured the survival of early man. Thousands of years later, it is the source of our most basic behaviors and cultural ideas--and progress itself.

Dopamine is the chemical of desire that always asks for more--more stuff, more stimulation, and more surprises. In pursuit of these things, it is undeterred by emotion, fear, or morality. Dopamine is the source of

our every urge, that little bit of biology that makes an ambitious business professional sacrifice everything in pursuit of success, or that drives a satisfied spouse to risk it all for the thrill of someone new. Simply put, it is why we seek and succeed; it is why we discover and prosper. Yet, at the same time, it's why we gamble and squander.

From dopamine's point of view, it's not the having that matters. It's getting something--anything--that's new. From this understanding--the difference between possessing something versus anticipating it--we can understand in a revolutionary new way why we behave as we do in love, business, addiction, politics, religion--and we can even predict those behaviors in ourselves and others.

In *The Molecule of More: How a Single Chemical in Your Brain Drives Love, Sex, and Creativity--and will Determine the Fate of the Human Race*, George Washington University professor and psychiatrist Daniel Z. Lieberman, MD, and Georgetown University lecturer Michael E. Long present a potentially life-changing proposal: Much of human life has an unconsidered component that explains an array of behaviors previously thought to be unrelated, including why winners cheat, why geniuses often suffer with mental illness, why nearly all diets fail, and why the brains of liberals and conservatives really are different.

MICHAEL E. LONG

Foreword by Daniel Z. Lieberman, co-author of *The Molecule of More*, and author of *Spellbound*

TAMING THE MOLECULE OF MORE (April 2025)

Publishers: World English: Benbella; Romania: SC Publica Com SRL; Bulgaria: Skyprint; Italy: De Agostini; China: CITIC; Taiwan FACES; Korea: Book21; Portugal: Presenca; Brazil: Sextante; Spain: Planeta; Russia: Alpina; Germany: MVG; Iraq/Arabic Nabu Publishers; Japan: Diamond; Czech Republic: Grada

The follow up to the international bestseller, *The Molecule of More*, here's a step-by-step guide that converts the brain science of *The Molecule of More* into practical steps to making your life better, right now.

Here's how to: stop being held captive to the lure of social media; avoid the pitfalls that plague dating life; keep yourself from getting "bored" with the love you already have; better limit compulsive shopping; lengthen a brief attention span; engage your creativity when you need it most; step back from an unhealthy obsession with work

The result: better relationships, more satisfaction in your career, and greater peace of mind every day. The secret? *Taming the Molecule of More*.

Trained as a physicist, Michael E. Long is an award-winning speechwriter, screenwriter, and playwright. As a playwright, more than 20 of his shows have been produced, most on New York stages. As a screenwriter, his honors include finalist for the grand prize in screenwriting at the Slamdance Film Festival. As a speechwriter, Mr. Long has written for members of Congress, U.S. cabinet secretaries, governors, diplomats, business executives, and presidential candidates. A popular speaker and educator, Mr. Long has addressed audiences around the world, including in a keynote at Oxford University. He teaches writing at Georgetown University, where he is a former director of writing. Mr. Long pursued undergraduate studies at Murray State University and graduate studies at Vanderbilt University.

"From neurobiology to Aristotelian ethics, this book is both a practical guide for living and a philosophical meditation on the meaning of life. Entertaining, informative and persuasive, *Taming the Molecule of More* is a must-read for anyone who wants to feel better while also doing good."

--Anna Lembke MD, author of *Dopamine Nation*

PAT LIPSKY

BRIGHTENING GLANCE: ART AND LIFE

Publishers: North America: University of Iowa Press (October 2025); Audio: Tantor

For more than five decades, Pat Lipsky has been a leading figure in American color field painting. In loosely connected vignettes, this extraordinary book looks back on a life in 1970s SoHo: from her pioneering days juggling painting and single motherhood in a redesigned factory loft on Wooster Street; to Paris where an enchanting friendship develops with the former director of the Louvre, Pierre Rosenberg; to her yearslong close relationship with legendary art critic Clement Greenberg; to a marvelous love affair with the charismatic art dealer Richard Bellamy which ended tragically with his sudden death. We glimpse Lipsky's first introduction to Cezanne as a child in 1950s Brooklyn and her studies with the mythic artist Tony Smith who would become her mentor. There are visits with Lee Krasner at her home in Springs, late night, smoke-filled loft parties, and evenings at Max's Kansas City where Lou Reed and Nico sang in the background while rival groups of earthwork artists, pop artists, conceptual artists, and color field painters pretend to ignore each other at the bar. Along the way we experience Lipsky's emergence at the forefront of the so-called Lyrical Abstraction movement.

Brightening Glance: Art and Life offers a stunningly self-revealing portrait of the struggles and sacrifices, joys and excitement, inherent in a modern painter's life, and captures the evergreen allure of New York's art world between 1970 and 1995. In stripped down, elegant prose, Lipsky summons a New York that no longer exists and ponders why we love (and hate) the art world. Ultimately, it's a story of a contemporary woman, a mother and painter, who dares a career in a field where only a handful of women had succeeded.

Pat's work has been widely exhibited and is represented in public collections across the country such as The Whitney Museum of American Art, The San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, The Brooklyn Museum of Art, The Smithsonian's Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, Harvard's Fogg Art Museum, to name a few. Pat has a BFA from Cornell University and an MFA from the Graduate Program in Painting at Hunter College, where she studied with the canonical artist Tony Smith who became her mentor. Her writing has been published by *Tablet Magazine*, *The Awl*, and *Public Books*, as well as *The New Criterion*.

"A portrait of the artist as a woman working and living in the heart of the downtown New York art world. Pat Lipsky's book is a stylish, entertaining, and, above all, honest memoir of a painter's life and times. If you wondered what it would really have been like to be an artist in the years when art was all about art, this book opens the door." – **Louis Menand, Pulitzer Prize winning author of *The Metaphysical Club***

"From fisticuffs at Max's Kansas City between Andy Warhol's flamboyant entourage and Carl Andre's minimalist cadre to the secret confessions of uber-critic Clement Greenberg, *Brightening Glance* by Pat Lipsky is a shockingly candid art world expose by a talented painter who survived six decades of culture wars. As both protagonist and witness Lipsky lays bare the vanities of the artists, dealers and critics who made the late twentieth century art scene in New York the fulcrum of artistic innovation and ideological rivalry amidst chaotic private lives. Lipsky spares no-one from her acid pen, least of all herself." – **Michael Findlay, author of *Portrait of the Art Dealer as a Young Man: New York in the Sixties***

"How did Pat Lipsky pull off the near-impossible feat of breaking into the hyper macho downtown art world? She tells us in *Brightening Glance*. With this memoir, Lipsky proves that she's as brilliant, energetic, and brave a writer as she is a painter." – **Lili Anolik, bestselling author of *Didion & Babitz***

ALAN NIVEN

SOUND N' FURY

Publishers: North America: ECW Press (Summer 2025); Finland: Docendo

Alan Niven was manager of Guns N' Roses during their golden years, 1986-1991, the only person willing to take them on at the start. Izzy Stradlin has characterized him as the sixth, silent member of that infamous group. He was also: an early Virgin Records employee, then the first disc jockey to play the Police, the Pretenders, and Dire Straits in the United States. He helped run a record label that released the first Mötley Crüe and Dokken records, as well as Berlin ("The Metro," "Sex [I'm a...]"). He co-wrote most of Great White's hits while also managing them. One night, he hired policemen to make sure a recalcitrant Axl Rose made it to the L.A. Coliseum to open for the Rolling Stones. He helped Clarence Clemons make his 1995 album Peacemaker and get Clarence his E Street due. In his professional life, Alan interacted with the biggest and most fearsome executives in the music business, never concerned with 'going along to get along,' and helped his clients break through to massive success. Everything he did was done in the service of his artists.

Not a memoir, SOUND N' FURY is Alan sharing vignettes-- his great rock 'n roll stories, all choice bites and no filler—including many colorful ones about his biggest success story, Guns N' Roses (100 million+ albums sold to date, including 45 million in the US; 9.6 million tickets sold, generating \$775 million in sales), as the heart of the book. An apt comparison, form-wise, is Dave Grohl's The Storyteller.

KIRTHANA RAMISETTI

THE OTHER LATA

Publishers: North America: Grand Central/Hachette (April 2025)

Somewhere in New York City, Lata Murthy knows there is another person with her name living a much more interesting life. That's because Lata often receives the other Lata's emails since they have very similar email addresses. These include invites to Hampton soirees, fundraising appeals from the New York City Ballet and reminders about sample sales at Soho boutiques. Lata's own life—working in digital marketing, watching Food Network marathons with her roommate, shoplifting from Sephora for the illicit thrill—feels pathetic in comparison.

Lata (latamurthy@gmail.com) has written to thelatomurthy@gmail.com to let her know about the email mixups, but never receives a reply. After receiving the umpteenth invitation, this time to the launch of a jewelry line in Chelsea, Lata goes herself. She loves getting a glimpse of a New York she's never seen before, and decides on a "year of yes"—but the "yes" is doing everything that lands in her inbox that was meant for Other Lata.

To afford the upgrade in lifestyle, Lata maxes out her credit cards and even shoplifts a few times. And it all becomes worth it when she meets Rajeev G, a celebrated fashion designer. To her surprise and delight, the two slowly fall in love. Lata sees her social circle expand to a chic, artsy crowd, and enjoys being one of them. For the first time, Lata receives invitations that are truly meant for her.

Despite amassing major debt to keep up with Rajeev and their jetset friends, Lata has never been happier. Rajeev is kind, talented and encourages her long-dormant writing dreams. With him by her side, Lata can finally have the glamorous life she always desired. Especially since no one seems to realize or care that she is showing up in place of Other Lata.

Except for one person: Other Lata herself. "Since you want my life so badly," she says in a phone call from an unlisted number, "you're going to have to work for it." If Lata doesn't do exactly what Other Lata says, then the woman will reveal to Rajeev that his girlfriend is an imposter.

She orders Lata to undertake oddball tasks—juggling hot dogs at a yacht party, wearing a mink coat and flip flops to a beach outing—that earn her laughter and derision from her new friends. Lata does what she is

asked, preferring these humiliations over losing her boyfriend. And so she swoons when Rajeev tells her that she enjoys this offbeat side of her to the snobs in their social circle, and encourages her to continue being her “weird, wonderful self.” Lata doesn’t know how she got so lucky (finding Rajeev) and unlucky (getting blackmailed) at the same time.

When Other Lata’s demands change from mischievous to illegal, Lata discovers that Other Lata is a con artist on the run from the wealthy people she had scammed. Not only that, every strange thing Other Lata asked her to do has been to set up Lata as her fall guy. Can Lata find Other Lata before she goes down for her crimes, and all without losing the man she loves?

Kirthana’s debut novel, [DAVA SHASTRI’S LAST DAY](#) (Grand Central, 2021), was a Good Morning America Book Club Pick, a B&N Paperback Selection of the Month, a Publishers Lunch Buzz Book, a Publishers Weekly Notable Book, and an IndieNext Selection. It was long-listed for The Center for Fiction’s First Novel Prize and was named most anticipated for fall 2021 by TIME, The Washington Post, Bustle, Goodreads, and Debutiful.

Kirthana’s second book, [ADVICA AND THE HOLLYWOOD WIVES](#) (Grand Central, 2023) was a Book of the Month Club Pick, A Cosmopolitan Best Book of the Year and an Apple Best Book of the Month.

LAURA BROOKE ROBSON

LOVE IS AN ALGORITHM by Laura Brooke Robson

North American: Park Row/Harper, Spring 2026; UK/Commonwealth/Australia: Text Publishing

Pattern is more than just a dating app—it’s your friendly relationship coach. It will tell you whether you should invest in learning your partner’s love language (quality time!) or pull the escape hatch (red flags galore!). The latest version of Pattern includes Bug, a friendly AI chatbot guaranteed to give you bespoke relationship advice and revitalize that spark. Take the uncertainty out of love!

Eve wants to make music that’s fueled by love, passion, and rage (feelings!). She trusts her gut and her friends and in no way wants to rely on technology, let alone AI, to tell her how she feels. Danny is anxious – about his dad, his dating life, his coffee order (why is it twelve dollars?), and about the dating app he helped create, which seems determined to serve him terrible matches.

When Eve and Danny start dating, it feels like the solution to all of Danny’s worries – except when it doesn’t. Is she happy? Should he be doing more? Or less? This becomes the catalyst for a revolutionary new version of Dann’s app that promises to quantify relationship health and potential, helping users understand what’s really going on. Problem solved!

As Pattern and Bug, the ever-so-friendly AI assistant, catch fire, users everywhere begin outsourcing major life decisions to Danny’s algorithms. But as Danny reckons with his newfound success, Eve—whose career relies on her ability to write her emotions into song – grows increasingly skeptical of the app’s impact on genuine connection. Their relationship becomes the ultimate modern experiment: How do you fall and stay in love in the digital age?

“Warm, funny, emotional, propulsive and real—a beautiful love story.” – **Jessica Stanley, author of *Consider Yourself Kissed***

“The love story of Danny and Even in Laura Robson’s novel is one for the ages, but it’s also entirely of this moment, when our relationships with friends, family, and lovers are mediated by our phones ... A cutting satire of tech startups and dating, the novel is necessary reading for anyone trying to figure out who they are

and what they want in the era of social media. In this funny, fast-paced, and intimate tale, there might be A.A. but there's nothing artificial about emotion." – **Kyle Chayka, author of *Filterworld***

A CURSE FOR THE HOMESICK (February 2025)

Publishers: North America: Mira/HarperCollins; UK/Commonwealth: Hodder; Hungary: Multiverzum

"A *Curse for the Homesick* beautifully captures the whirlwind of young love, long-distance friendships, and the meaning of home. Reading truly felt like an escape." -- *HoneyPop*

On Stenland, there comes a time known as skeld season: one day, any woman on the island can wake with three black lines on her forehead, the mark of a skeld. Skeld season comes around without warning, and while each window of time lasts only three months, anyone a skeld turns to stone is very much dead.

That's how Tess's mother killed Soren's parents. Maybe for this reason alone, Tess and Soren should not have fallen in love. Since the time her mother was a skeld, Tess has wanted to leave Stenland, to run from the windswept island, from her family and friends. She is unwilling to bear the responsibility of one day killing anyone, let alone someone she loves. Soren has been determined to stay, to live out his life in the place he knows as home, even if that life could be cut short during the latest skeld season. They cannot see eye to eye—and yet they cannot stay apart. She tries to come back for him. He tries to leave for her. But can your love for one person outweigh everything else combined? And how do you decide how much you're willing to risk, if it might mean destroying someone else in the process?

Laura Robson has crafted a fascinating story about the choices we make, the responsibilities we carry, and the ambiguities of regret.

"An enthralling read that lingers like a half-forgotten memory."
—***Booklist***

"*A Curse for the Homesick* is above all a second-chance romance ... This grounded, moving novel is a perfect rainy day read and an ode to what it is to be human—to desire and gain, to desire and lose, to find again."
—**Bookpage, starred review**

KRISTY SHEN and BRYCE LEUNG

PARENT LIKE A MILLIONAIRE (Without Being One): Outsmart Big Baby, Save on Childcare, and Secure Your Family's Financial Future (March 2026)

Publishers: World English: Tarcher/PRH

From two leaders of the FIRE (Financial Independence, Retire Early) movement, an essential guide to the finances of having and raising kids no matter the size of your budget.

New parents are often stressed about their finances. Even Kristy Shen and Bryce Leung – who both retired at age 30 with over a million dollars in the back – worried about the cost of becoming parents. Leaders of the FIRE (financial independence, retire early) movement, Kristy and Bryce may not be experts at parenting, but they are experts at saving.

In this book, they reveal how to:

- Make your money work harder than you do
- Avoid the pressure to buy baby gear you don't need

- Find your nest, optimize transportation, and hack childcare
- Go on unlimited family vacations
- Give your child a world-class education

Each chapter in this book is filled with money-saving tips—and more money means less stress, which leads to happier families. The financial advice in this book is tailored to help you reduce your stress so that your family can thrive.

Kristy Shen and Bryce Leung are the authors of *QUIT LIKE A MILLIONAIRE: How to Retire Decades Early and Travel the World* (Tarcher, 2019). Their story has been featured in media outlets all over the world, including the New York Times, CBC, CNBC, Women’s Health Magazine Australia, Germany’s Handelsblatt, GQ Russia, and the UK’s Independent. They spend their time helping people with their finances and realizing their travel dreams.

DEREK SHULMAN WITH JON WIEDERHORN

GIANT STEPS: My Improbable Journey from Stage Lights to Executive Heights (December 2025)

Publishers: World English: Jawbone Press

Derek Shulman, one of the founders of the influential (and heavily sampled--by more than 37 artists, including J Dilla, Travis Scott, De La Soul, Run the Jewels, and A Tribe Called Quest) cult '70s UK prog rock band **Gentle Giant**, opens up about his impoverished childhood; the early drive to succeed as a musician and a brief brush with fame while barely out of high school; being in Gentle Giant from the beginning (1970) to the end (1980); major achievements in the music business after Gentle Giant’s collapse (signing and working with Bon Jovi and Pantera; resuscitating AC/DC's career; staging the biggest free concert ever in Russia, drawing over 2 million people; and more). Shulman has had a remarkable life.

Currently, a film about Gentle Giant is in development by Shulman and the band’s über-fan, Ahmir “Questlove” Thompson. In 2019 when Shulman issued a Gentle Giant box set, all 5,000 copies sold out during a pre-sale, at \$450 per set, mostly to US fans.

Derek Shulman lives in New York. His co-author, Jon Wiederhorn, is the author of many books, including collaborations on various musicians’ memoirs, and *Louder Than Hell*, co-authored with Katherine Turman. He lives in Montclair, New Jersey.

“Derek Shulman was there before there was a there. We grew together as a team. We learned as we lived. He was the one real A&R man that we could count on when we needed him.” -- **JON BON JOVI**

“Many years ago, I had the privilege of playing with Simon Dupree and the Big Sound on a tour of Scotland. It was a joyous experience. The band were fabulous musicians and great guys and treated me so well.” -- **Elton John**

“The intensity of Gentle Giant’s performances sometimes extended from stage to dressing room after their show when a noisy post-mortem might erupt into murderous fraternal screaming matches over a missed semi-quaver or less than perfect vocal harmony. Spirited bunch, the Giants, in full flow. Move over Cain. Step aside, Abel.” -- **IAN ANDERSON - Jethro Tull**

“We were into prog rock hard back then and loved it all. However, Gentle Giant was different. The articulate and musically experimental yet beautiful music that came out of the speakers was captivating.” -- **STEVE LUKATHER – TOTO**

MEREDITH F. SMALL

HOW WE THINK: The Hidden Life of Everyday Ideas

Publishers: World English: The American Philosophical Society Press (June 2026)

The first volume of Meredith Small’s essays and science journalism, *How We Think*, focuses on human mental complexity. The book prioritizes and honors the human mind because we are a “thinking species” rather than one that simply reacts on instinct to some sort of stimulus. Unlike other animals, humans think about the past and the future, and we believe that our smarts will save us from climate change, war, famine, and technological advances that may not have worked out so well. Yes, it’s true, we are something special because of our big brains, but we are at a loss to explain how the brain works or why we have such a complex organ. And yet, we favor the brain because it plays the soundtrack of our lives—the thoughts, ideas, questions, memories, decisions, and projections that run our lives. We are also convinced of the importance of the human brain because it is so very present, incessant, intrusive, and bossy. For that reason alone, people believe our brains make us superior, smarter, and more sophisticated than other animals. But there is a leap of faith in this mental self-aggrandizement. No one really knows why Natural Selection favored the evolution of so much brain tissue for our species, or even if our so-called intelligence is responsible for our apparent evolutionary success. It’s time to think about our brains and how we use them.

Meredith Small is the author of *Inventing the World: Venice and the Transformation of Western Civilization*, and *Here Begins the Dark Sea: How a 15th Century Venetian Monk Drew the Most Accurate Map of the World and Foresaw the Future* (Pegasus). She is a classically trained anthropologist, and Professor Emerita at Cornell University, where Small was an award-winning teacher for over thirty years. Small was hailed “the Margaret Mead of our generation” by the President of the American Anthropological Association, and has published numerous books for the popular audience.

"As a paleoanthropologist, I appreciate not just the science, but the humor too, in this wonderful collection of essays about one of life's biggest questions: What makes us human? Professor Small's delightful narrative, sparkling curiosity, and evocative insights into the mechanics and magic of the human brain makes this a fun, important, very worthwhile read." -- **Donald Johanson, co-author of *Lucy: The Beginnings of Humankind***

TOGETHER: How the Human Need for Connection has Formed and Shaped our Lasting Need for Each Other

Publishers: World English: Pegasus (Fall 2026)

With the recognition of LGBTIQ+ identities, the acceptance of same-sex marriage, the embrace of polyamory, and the notion of chosen family, our definition of family is rapidly changing shape and size. *Together* proposes a completely new way to look at the growing complexity of American families by exploring the Western understanding of family starting with its evolutionary foundation, the driving forces of family formation, and how ancient and modern humans have realized and navigated this universal but often misunderstood social contract.

Small posits that humans have a long history of interpersonal attachments with kin as well as nonkin as the human fossil record and archeological remains show, and that our current period of expansion and flexibility in family structure is nothing new and that if we look around the world, and into our evolutionary past, we will see these alternative configurations of families with long histories and traditions.

Ultimately, *Together* suggests that it is only through a comparative lens can we in Western culture truly comprehend the universal and persistent place of family in our lives and gain a crucial species-wide perspective on the changing nature of today's family.

ELIOT STEIN

CUSTODIANS OF WONDER: Ancient Customs, Profound Traditions, and the Last People Keeping Them Alive (December 2024)

Publishers: World English: St. Martin's Press; Russia: Livebook

A vivid look at the ten key people who are maintaining some of the world's oldest and rarest cultural traditions.

Eliot Stein has traveled the globe in search of remarkable people who are preserving some of our rarest cultural rites. In *Custodians of Wonder: Ancient Customs, Profound Traditions, and the Last People Keeping Them Alive*, Stein introduces readers to a man saving the secret ingredient in Japan's 700-year-old original soy sauce recipe. In Italy, he learns how to make the world's rarest pasta from one of the only women alive who knows how to make it. And in India, he discovers a family rumored to make a mysterious metal mirror believed to reveal your truest self. From shadowing Scandinavia's last night watchman to meeting a 27th-generation West African griot to seeking out Cuba's last official cigar factory "readers" more than a century after they spearheaded the fight for Cuban independence, Stein uncovers an almost lost world.

Climbing through Peru's southern highlands, he encounters the last Inca bridge master who rebuilds a grass-woven bridge from the fabled Inca Road System. He befriends a British beekeeper who maintains a touching custom of "telling the bees" important news of the day and crunches through a German forest to find the official mailman of the only tree in the world with its own address – to which countless people all over the world have written in hopes of finding love. These are just some of the last people on Earth still in touch with quickly vanishing rites. Let Eliot Stein introduce you to all of them.

Eliot Stein is an award-winning journalist, deputy editor at BBC Travel, and the creator of the Custom Made column, consistently one of BBC Travel's top-performing series, with views in the millions. In addition, Eliot's writing has been published in *Best Travel Writing* books anthology (Travelers Tales, 2008), and has appeared in *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, *National Geographic*, *The Guardian*, *WIRED*, *Conde Nast Traveler*, CNN, *The Independent*, *USA Today*, *Vice*, and elsewhere. His stories have been translated into 27 languages.

"One of the best books of 2024" – *The Christian Science Monitor*

"One of the 10 best travel books of 2024" – *Smithsonian*

"Stein's reverent prose conveys the awe-inspiring nature of these arcane cultural traditions without exoticizing them ("There's something truly singular about witnessing someone do something that nearly nobody else in the world knows how to do. It's like watching a secret"). This is worth seeking out." - *Publisher's Weekly*

"Stein approaches each person and tradition with respect. Area histories are woven into the narrative,

providing essential background to understanding what will be lost if these traditions are not carried on. "I am hoping to awaken people to something deep and beautiful they may otherwise never know about," he writes—and he succeeds. A mix of travel, history, craft, and anthropology, this insightful book will especially delight armchair travelers and those interested in the diversity of the world." — **Booklist**

"*Custodians of Wonder* bears us away on a journey across geography but also through time and family lineage. Mr. Stein's great gift—his sensitivity and his dedication to capturing joy and hope, however fleeting—is worth giving to others." -- **The Wall Street Journal**

"Many of Stein's subjects -- an Inca bridge master, a Scandinavian night watchman, an official Cuban cigar [reader] are the last of their kind. 'When one seemingly insignificant wonder fades,' the author writes, 'an irretrievable part of our humanity vanishes with it.'" — **New York Times Book Review**

"*Custodians of Wonder* is the perfect title for this superb and unclassifiable book. Part travel, part anthropology, part memoir, part history, each chapter reveals a cultural treasure or custom that's about to disappear. From a Mali musical instrument, a sacred Sardinian pasta, artisan Japanese soy sauce, a secret mirror, to beekeeping and the survival of medieval night watching on the tip of Sweden, Eliot Stein's quests not only explore each subject in depth but open wide the aperture onto the cultural context. I was enthralled by every chapter. Written with verve and acute observation, this book is one of the rare ones that take you where you've never been." — **Frances Mayes, bestselling author of *Under the Tuscan Sun***

"Intrepidly reported and delightfully delivered, *Custodians of Wonder* is a tonic for our troubled times. From a Swedish night watchman to a Peruvian bridge weaver, Eliot Stein shines a bright and generous light on unexpected pockets of joy—and reminds us of the quiet beauty found in ancient, unbroken traditions. There is much magic, and wisdom, in these pages." --**Eric Weiner, New York Times bestselling author of *The Geography of Bliss* and *The Geography of Genius***

"I so enjoyed Eliot Stein's celebration of the unsung arts still faintly glowing in the shadows of all our pasts. In this charming book he has uncovered and preserved treasures across five continents that might otherwise have slipped away. As he writes, *Custodians of Wonder* 'invites us to fall back in love with the world'" -- **Sara Wheeler, author of *Mud and Stars: Travels in Russia***

BRAD TOLINSKI & CHRIS GILL

BLOW BY BLOW: The Jeff Beck Story (Spring 2026)

Publishers: World English: Hachette; UK: Penguin

Jeff Beck, who died in 2023, was never quite a household name like Clapton, Eddie Van Halen, or Jimi Hendrix, and only two of his albums achieved platinum status in the United States, but there was no denying the impact his unique guitar playing had on at least three generations of listeners. In 2015, Beck was ranked number five in *Rolling Stone* magazine's list of 100 Greatest Guitarists, with artist as diverse as Alice Cooper and jazz great John McLaughlin feeling that he should've been placed higher. That is why his story is so intriguing. With his shag haircut and white Stratocaster guitar Jeff Beck was an icon known and loved by millions, yet somehow, he maintained the ineffable low-profile cool of a cult hero as he glided through six decades of musical trends with nary a lapse in taste. Not to say he ever played it safe. What other guitarist can lay claim to performing with opera star Luciano Pavarotti, television personality Kelly Clarkson and Guns N' Roses with equal grace and wit? Or as Beck himself once quipped, "I'm an awkward son of a bitch when it comes to doing the expected."

In *Blow by Blow: The Jeff Beck Story*, Brad Tolinski and Chris Gill, the authors of *Eruption: Conversations with Eddie Van Halen*, chart the unexplored life of rock's greatest and perhaps most enigmatic instrumentalist. Culled from approximately 30 hours of interviews with the late guitarist himself, numerous conversations with those closest to him, and extensive research, the writers will shed new light on the genius that Jimmy Page once said, "shifted the whole sound and face of electric guitar music." The book will feature interviews with a virtual who's who of musicians, music industry executives and personal associates, including Jimmy Page, John Paul Jones, Keith Richards, Ron Wood, Rod Stewart, Eric Clapton, Joe Perry, Billy Gibbons, Buddy Guy, and Yardbirds' Jim McCarty and Chris Dreja, among others.

RACHEL WEAVER

THE LAST RUN

Publishers: World English: Lake Union (June 2026)

It's been years since Ellie has fished the Alaskan waters—not since her mother died, not since her father took to drink, and not since the birth of her five-year-old son. She's been living half a life, working a cubicle job in a small fishing town and drowning in debt while barely having the energy to be a single mom to Drew. When she finds her father lying in an alleyway, she learns he's done the unforgivable. Pete has gambled away the family legacy, the fishing boat and license, and unless he can come up with fifty thousand in two months, the bookie will get everything, Pete will be homeless and Ellie and her son will be stuck in the grinding cycle of poverty. Ellie agrees to fish the season with her dad, bringing Drew on the boat as they chase the pipe dream of making enough money to pay off the debt. Ellie is used to the 20-hour days and the back-breaking work, and she's used to risking her life to find the biggest catch. What she's not used to is accepting help from others, and definitely not from a secretive homesteader who seems to have demons of his own. Ellie's growing attraction and the dangerous Alaskan waters are the least of her worries, though. Because Ellie is hiding secrets of her own and, as the date with the bookie draws closer, she is at risk of losing it all.

THE LAST RUN is a story of family, resilience, and hard work. It's about fiercely independent people doing the best they can and coming to the hard truth that sometimes, what takes the most courage, is accepting the help of others. Featuring a woman fighting against the limits of her existence and whose story is shaped by her relationships with the natural world, it would appeal to the same audience as Della Owens' *Where the Crawdads Sing*, Shelley Read's *Go As A River*, Julia Phillips' *Bear* and novels by Charlotte McConaghy.

Rachel Weaver is the author of *Point of Direction* (Ig Publishing, 2014), which Oprah Magazine named a "Top Ten Book to Pick Up Now." It was chosen by the American Booksellers Association as a Top Ten Debut for Spring 2014, by IndieBound as an Indie Next List Pick, by *Yoga Journal* as one of their Top Five Suggested Summer Reads and it won the 2015 Willa Cather Award for Fiction. Prior to earning her MFA in Writing and Poetics from Naropa University, Rachel worked for the Forest Service in Alaska studying bears, raptors, and songbirds. She is on faculty at Regis University's MFA program and Wilke's University's MFA program, and her work has appeared in *The Sun*, *Gettysburg Review*, *Blue Mesa Review*, *Alaska Women Speak*, and *Fly Fishing New England*.

CHILDREN'S

LEAH CYPRESS

FUTURE ME SAVES THE WORLD (And Ruins My Life) (June 2025) *humorous early middle grade series*

Publishers: North American: Aladdin/S&S; UK/Commonwealth: represented by Camille Burns at Diamond Kahn & Woods Literary Agency

Ethan just wants to be a normal 10-year-old, playing video games and hanging out with his best friend. But his future self keeps showing up, demanding he save the world. And now he wants him to do the impossible: prevent his class from torturing their new substitute teacher. Because if she quits, she'll one day become an evil dictator who will destroy the planet. Ethan isn't prepared for how challenging the situation will be, or that this mission will require befriending the weirdest girl in class. As Ethan races against time, he learns that friendships can be more complicated than he thought and sometimes allies can be found in the most unlikely of places.

Leah is the author of the chapter book series *The Truth About the Tooth Fairy* (Abrams Childrens, 2025) and the author of the Sisters Ever After middle grade series (Delacorte/PRH), including *Thornwood* (which was nominated for a Nebula and received two starred reviews), *Glass Slippers* (2022), *The Pied Piper's Promise* (2023), *The Last Rose* (2024), *Braided* (2025) and *Sea Swept* (2026). Leah is also the author of four YA fantasies published by Greenwillow/Harper.

****Junior Library Guild Selection****

"Infused with plenty of humor, Ethan's first-person narration is chaotic, at once self-centered and thoughtful, affectionately capturing the interior life of a highly imaginative elementary schooler.....an energetic and hilarious mix of light sci-fi and the daily dramas of kids' lives." — **Kirkus**

Book #2 in FUTURE ME SAVES THE WORLD series:

Ethan Koslov already saved the world once, so you would think he deserves a vacation. But his time-traveling 39-year-old future self doesn't seem to agree. According to him, the future is at risk *again*, and Ethan has to fix it while on a hiking trip with his overly-enthusiastic parents, his more-annoying-than-usual older sister, and his meddlesome little brother. But when his sister takes a picture of something she was never meant to see, it puts the space-time continuum in danger (as usual). Now, in order to save the universe, Ethan is going to have to do the impossible: get along with his sister while the two of them are trapped together in a tiny cabin in the middle of nowhere.

... or maybe he'll have to find another way. Because there are some things even less believable than time travel.

SARAH BETH DURST

THE FARAWAY INN

Publishers: North America: Delacorte/PenguinRandomHouse (Spring 2026); UK/Commonwealth: MacMillan Children's; Germany: Loewe; France: Bragelonne; Turkey: Juno Kitap; Portugal: Porto Editora; the Netherlands: De Fontein; Romania: Storia

A cozy YA fantasy from the NYTimes and Internationally Bestselling author of *The Spellshop Series*

One teenage girl nursing a heartbreak
One kind and handsome groundskeeper's son
One grumpy great-aunt
And a bed & breakfast that's more than what it seems

Welcome to Auntie Zee's B&B!

Reeling from a bad break up, sixteen-year-old Calisa jumps at the chance to leave the city and help her great-aunt run her bed and breakfast for the summer. She's expecting a quaint cottagecore inn with mountain views, a burbling stream, frolicking deer, and whatever. What she finds is a rundown property nearly swallowed by the forest. The groundskeeper's seventeen-year-old son, Jayden, has been trying to keep up with repairs, but he doesn't have the skills or experience of his father, who is currently late returning from a work trip. With Auntie Zee's grudging permission, Calisa begins to help Jayden with tasks around the inn, which includes interacting with some very odd guests. There's the woman who trails water behind her everywhere she goes, and the couple who seem to swap personalities every time Calisa encounters them. And then the man in room eight... He only emerges at night and is often found mixing strange, bubbling concoctions in the kitchen under the light of the moon. It's not long before Calisa realizes that the inn is more than just quirky. It's special, with each room holding a portal from a different magical realm. Auntie Zee's B&B is a sanctuary for those who want a respite from their lives elsewhere—really elsewhere. Such a place can't close! Surely, Auntie Zee can't even be considering it. But Calisa is increasingly worried about Auntie Zee. Her aunt disappears for long stretches of time each day, and no one—not Jayden, not the guests, and not the elderly cat sunning herself in the sitting room—has any clue where she goes.

And then one evening, Auntie Zee doesn't return. Worse, the next morning, the always-wet woman from room three bursts into the kitchen in a panic: the portals between realms are malfunctioning.

As Calisa and Jayden work together to figure out Auntie Zee's secret and the secrets of the inn, their relationship grows. But they're running out of time to discover what Calisa's aunt has been hiding -- and the stakes are higher than they know.

Sarah Beth Durst is the New York Times bestselling author of over thirty books for adults, teens, and kids, including cozy fantasy *The Spellshop*. She's been awarded an American Library Association Alex Award, as well as a Mythopoeic Fantasy Award. Several of her books have been optioned for film/television, including *Drink Slay Love*, which was made into a TV movie and was a question on Jeopardy! She lives in Stony Brook, New York, with her husband, her children, and her ill-mannered cat. Visit her at sarahbethdurst.com.

BROOKS WHITNEY PHILLIPS

THE GROVE

Publishers: NA: Viking Books for Young Readers; (June 2025)

In this tender coming-of-age novel set in the socioeconomic tinderbox of the 1960s, two sisters in a struggling and damaged family only have each other to rely on . . . until an ugly secret tears them apart and threatens the cause of justice in their small town.

Fifteen-year-old Pip and seventeen-year-old Sissy aren't just sisters, they're best friends. Every year, they wait eagerly for the traveling carnival to put its stakes down in their tiny Florida town. It's the only time when the girls can abandon their endless chores on the family's orange grove and give in to pure joy. And the only time Pip and Sissy can forget their many troubles . . . living on the brink of poverty, Mama's despair, and Daddy's perpetual anger.

With the arrival of the carnival, the girls' slow, small lives suddenly feel bigger and brighter. But this year, something is different. Once the carnival leaves, with the charming young sword-swallower with it, Sissy grows increasingly distant from Pip and is soon no more than a stranger in their house. Pip grows closer to her friend Silas as a result, but when Sissy's shocking secret is revealed, the three unwittingly find themselves in a desperate situation that will change them all forever. In the land of the sweetest fruits, Pip must find her way through the soured hopes and bitter regrets of her family to finally break free of the grove.

Set against the class and economic tensions of early 1960s America, this stark yet hopeful novel tells a compelling story about the inescapable bonds of sisterhood and the lies we tell ourselves to survive.

Brooks Whitney Phillips is a freelance writer and author. She wrote a syndicated column and feature stories on music and the arts for the Chicago Tribune, is the author of eight middle grade books, and contributes design and travel stories to national magazines. She is the recipient of the Key West Literary Seminar's Marianne Russo Award for novel-in-progress, and is co-founder of the Rowland Writers Retreat, which hosts and funds ten annual residencies for women authors. She lives in Key West, Florida and Saugatuck, Michigan.

"Luminous prose relays the protagonist's satisfying emotional growth over the course of Phillips's potent tale of love and loyalty." —*Publishers Weekly*, **starred review**

"Phillips's writing is vivid and thoughtful as she tackles the bonds of sisterhood and first love, poverty, and socioeconomic bigotry, producing fully formed characters and leaving no question of motivation or actions in their wake. A triumph in historical fiction." —*SLJ*, **starred review**

"Beautiful writing, subtle brushstrokes depicting lives of isolation and despair with pinpoint accuracy, and a love between two young people too pure for this world." —*Booklist*