

# RIGHTS CATALOG FOR BOOK TO FILM / TV

# SPRING 2026



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SHARLENE MARTIN

FOUNDER/LITERARY & MEDIA MANAGER/ EP\*



206-466-1773 (PT)

[SHARLENE@MARTINLIT.COM](mailto:SHARLENE@MARTINLIT.COM)

[WWW.MARTINLITERARYMANAGEMENT.COM](http://WWW.MARTINLITERARYMANAGEMENT.COM)

\*SHARLENE MARTIN IS ATTACHED AS AN EP TO MLM PROJECTS PER CONTRACTUAL AGREEMENT WITH CLIENTS.

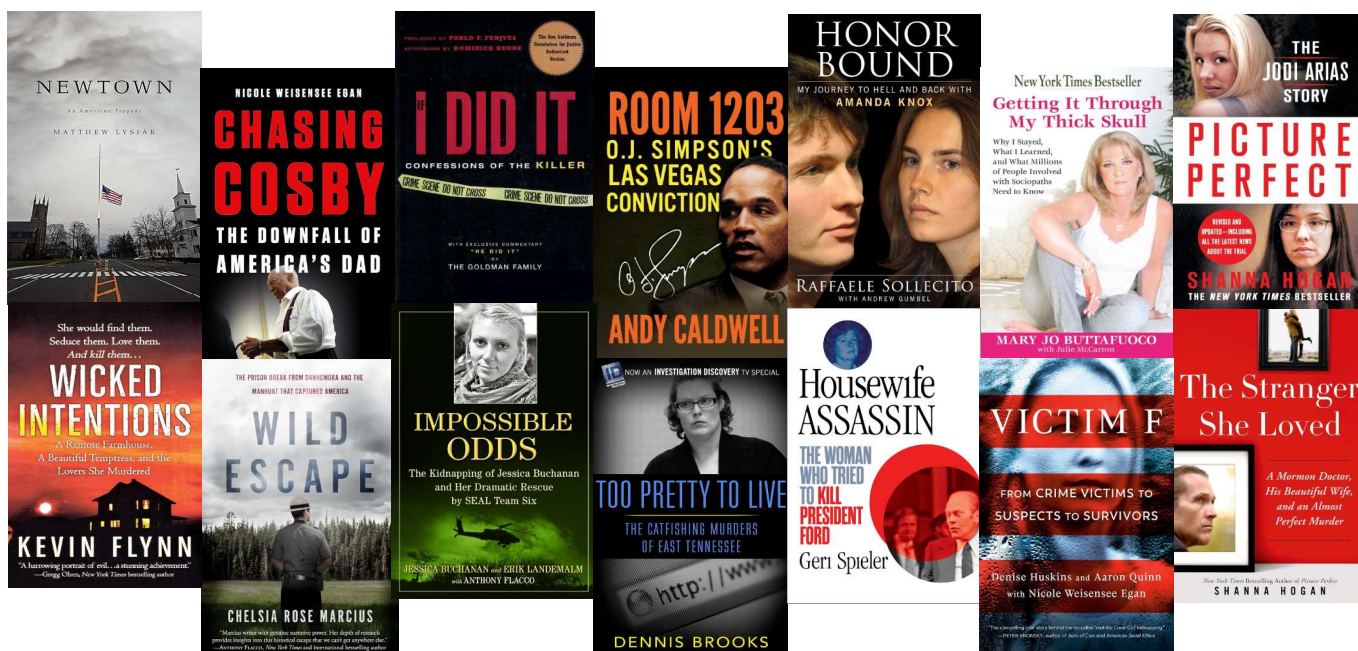
# Sharlene Martin



**Sharlene Martin**, upon moving in 1993 from her home state of Connecticut to California, began working in film and television. She then formed Martin/Walker-Lampley Productions with Bree Walker, a prominent CBS news anchor in Los Angeles and later spent time as a reality television developer for Media Savvy. Soon after, she became a Casting Director with the famed Joy Todd, who was known for working with such famous directors as Sidney Lumet, Paul Mazursky and Sergio Leone.

Sharlene's most challenging role there was casting the movie "Gods and Generals" with 156 speaking roles. She later spent several years at various creative positions in the entertainment industry while raising her two young children in Los Angeles.

In 2002, after a business meeting with an AFI screenwriter/author (who later became her husband!) she formed her own literary agency—Martin Literary & Media Management. She chose to primarily represent adult nonfiction, a genre she continues to love to this day. Sharlene has represented some of the top true crime books in publishing and has a strict policy that any crime-related book represented by her must always be told to benefit the victim, never the perpetrator. Here a just a few of her notable true crime book sales:



Many of Sharlene's authors have had their books boosted as serial reprints in prestigious publications such as Readers' Digest, People Magazine, WHO, and the NYTimes. Other client appearances include 60 Minutes, TODAY Show, The View, Fox and Friends, Good Morning America, The Early Show, 20/20, 48 Hours, Discovery Channel, Inside Edition, The 700 Club, ET, The Insider, ABC Nightline, Dr. Phil, Anderson Cooper, HLN, Discovery ID, Fox News, CNN and the former OPRAH show.

She is actively doing business with major film and TV companies for adaptations of her clients' books and shares the **MLM Book to Film-TV Rights Catalog** with key people in the entertainment industry on a quarterly basis. It's also updated with new sales weekly at [www.MartinLit.com/film-tv](http://www.MartinLit.com/film-tv). Sharlene is a member of the Producers Guild of America (pga) and is devoted to adapting books for Martin Literary's clients.

Some of her producing credits include:

\*Executive Producer for Housewife Assassin-in development with Fox Entertainment Studios for an 8-episode limited series.

\*Executive Producer for **Apple TV+** straight to series one-hour scripted highly acclaimed mystery, **HOME BEFORE DARK**, directed and executive produced by Jon M. Chu (Wicked, Crazy Rich Asians), based on her client, Hilde Lysiak, a 14-year-old crime reporter and publisher of the Orange Street News, and author of the Scholastic Branches six book series, **Hilde Cracks the Case** and **Hilde on the Record: Memoir of a Kid Crime Reporter**.

\*Executive Producer of Lifetime's movie, **The Pregnancy Project**, which garnered the two top Imagen Awards, for Best Primetime Movie/Special and Best Actress (Alexa Vega) Currently streaming on HULU.

\*Co-Creator/EP of the six season crime reality series, **DEADLY SINS** for Discovery ID.

\*Co-EP for the season of six specials, **EPIC MYSTERIES** for Discovery ID.

\*Executive Producer with Outpost Entertainment for A&E's documentary **OJ: Guilty in Vegas**.

\*Executive Producer on **Secrets of a Marine's Wife** for Sony Television at Lifetime.

She is currently in development on a number of projects based on her clients' books and enjoys collaborating with screenwriters, producers, directors and production companies. See full credits at [www.IMDB.com](http://www.IMDB.com) Sharlene Martin (1)

Additionally, she is co-author with her husband, NYT bestselling author Anthony Flacco, on the books **Publish Your Nonfiction Book** (Writer's Digest Books) and [Literary Fails: Totally \(sic\)!](#)

Publishers, editors, writers and entertainment execs consistently express their joy in working with someone who is such an avid fan of great writing and an enthusiastic guardian and representative of her clients' work. She employs this personal touch in all her business relationships and credits it with her proven record of success

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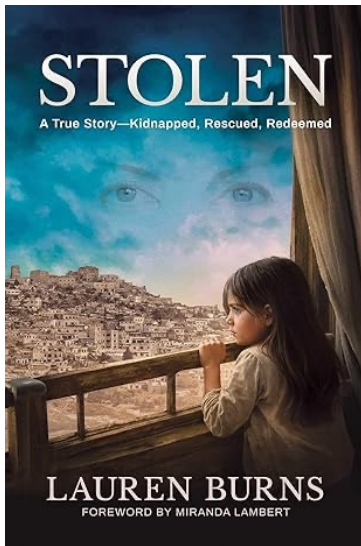
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# **TRUE CRIME**

**SCRIPTED / UNSCRIPTED**



# STOLEN:

A TRUE STORY- KIDNAPPING, RESCUED, REDEEMED

(WITH A FOREWORD FROM **MIRANDA LAMBERT**, COUNTRY SUPERSTAR)

TRUE CRIME – POST HILL PRESS, SEPT. 2026

At seven years old, Lauren was abducted by her father and taken from **Dallas, Texas to Jordan**—hidden in a foreign land and cut off from everything familiar. Without US aid, every legal door closed, and every lead exhausted, her mother refused to give up. She clung to relentless prayer, fierce hope, and the belief that God was still writing the story.

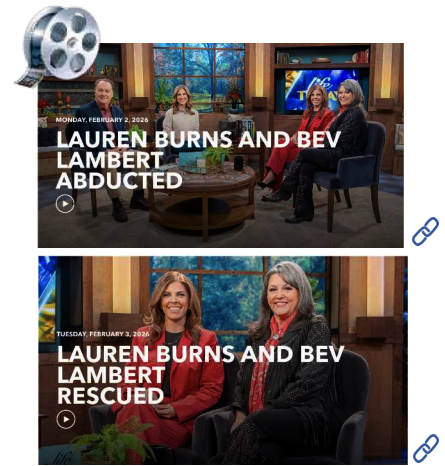
Then, in a miraculous turn of events, a group of ex-military men agreed to do the unthinkable. They planned a covert international rescue mission to bring her home. It was dangerous. It was improbable. And it worked.

The real redemption began in the aftermath—restoring what had been shattered, healing wounds no one could see, and turning trauma into testimony.

Today, she shares her story to remind others: no matter how hopeless the situation may seem, no life is too lost for God to redeem. When faith, community, and divine intervention collide—rescue is possible.

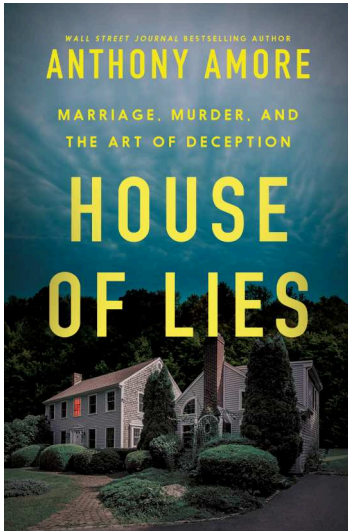
## WHY?

- Unmatched True Story - A survivor’s perspective on their real-life rescue, emotional trauma, healing, and forgiveness
- Celebrity Tie-in with Miranda Lambert - Lambert’s are Lauren’s second family and were instrumental in getting her home.
- Cinematic Arc - Built-in suspense, character growth, and redemption.
- Audience Ready - Connects with viewers seeking purpose, justice, and hope.



Lauren Burns is a powerful voice of redemption and restoration, whose personal story of surviving childhood trauma has inspired thousands. As the host of The Redeemed Podcast (finalist for the “Best Faith Podcast in 2025” with Content Christian Media), she creates a space for testimonies of faith and healing, reaching listeners weekly through streaming platforms and Christian Mix 106 radio. Also, she’s a compelling and seasoned communicator, Lauren is a sought-after speaker who has shared her message on talk shows, podcasts, conferences, and events.

**NOTE: MIRANDA LAMBERT FAMILY IS WILLING TO PARTICIPATE IN ANY WAY POSSIBLE TO HELP PROMOTE FILM/TV OPPORTUNITIES FOR LAUREN BURNS.**



# HOUSE OF LIES

MARRIAGE, MURDER and the Art of Deception

BY ANTHONY AMORE

PEGASUS CRIME, JAN. 2027



**Ana Walshe**, a successful real estate executive and mother of three, vanished from her home in the wealthy suburb of Cohasset, Massachusetts, the case captivated the nation. Within days, suspicion fell on her husband **Brian Walshe** -a man already under federal indictment for selling forged Warhols, and whose life, it turned out, was a masterclass in deception.

**In House of Lies: Marriage, Murder, and the Art of Deception**, best-selling author and art crime expert **Anthony Amore** traces Walshe's descent from elite con artist to convicted killer, exposing the disturbing psychological throughline that connects art fraud and uxoricide. Blending true crime, psychological insight, and investigative rigor, this is the definitive account of a chilling modern-day tragedy.

Hundreds of thousands of social media detectives began examining what they could of Ana's life. Her Instagram account provided perhaps the best glimpse. Petite and very well dressed, she seemed to embody the perfect life. There were photos of her on airplanes sporting a large diamond; pictures of her three hand- some sons, all under six years old and impeccably dressed; a photo of her in a bikini, proudly belying her recent pregnancies; scenes from fine dining; and lots of selfies (one person described them as "thirsty").

Within days, Cohasset Police charged Brian with deliberately misleading investigators when they found that the timeline of his actions he provided was far from truthful. There was more: a broken knife and evidence of blood were found in the basement. And when detectives looked at the internet history on his six-year son's iPad, they found searches for instructions on dismembering and disposing of a 115-pound body-Ana's exact weight. In the days that followed, investigators would uncover a mountain of ominous circumstantial evidence that pointed towards murder and Brian as the culprit.

Brian's earlier conviction for art fraud tells the tale of a dangerously anti-social individual, one with seemingly no conscience and a lust for vast sums of money at the expense of others. He not only had conned friends out of hundreds of thousands of dollars, but he had also pilfered a million dollars from his late father both before and after his death. His art crime of selling forged Warhols provides just a glimpse into the actions of a sociopath who smiled as he was led from the courthouse when facts were aired that pointed blame at his wife's vanishing squarely on him.

Told with the unique perspective of an expert in art-related crime, *House of Lies* will paint a portrait of Brian Walshe and the path he took from art scams to the most heinous of crimes: the murder of the mother of his children. It will tell of the parallels between the two acts and provide a glimpse into the chaotic world of status-seeking while displaying the profile of a sociopath that ultimately cost a young woman and mother her life.

In December 2025, Judge Diane Freniere called Brian Walshe's crimes "barbaric and incomprehensible" and she chastised him for "deceitful and manipulative behavior" and sentenced him to life without parole.

# The Optionist Review

By Andy B. Lewis

## HOUSE OF LIES: TRUE CRIME

- **For fans of:** The Talented Mr. Ripley meets Murdaugh: Death in the Family
- **Potential logline:** The true story of how Brian Walshe committed art fraud, scammed friends and family, then murdered his wife, chopping up the body to hide the evidence, as told by a former DHS official with experience in art fraud and theft.

**House of Lies: Marriage, Murder, and the Art of Deception** by Anthony M. Amore (Pegasus Crime/Simon & Schuster, Winter 2027) I highlighted this story when it first broke exactly two years ago. At the time, there was a lot of circumstantial evidence suggesting that Brian Walshe was responsible for killing his wife, Ana. The one hurdle was that there was no body. Now, two years later, Walshe was just convicted of murdering Ana and sentenced to life without parole. There are a lot of people scrambling to make a doc, which is a no-brainer. But this book-long examination of the case proves why it would make a compelling movie/limited series.

This in-the-works book from Amore, a DHS official-turned-author, would be a strong underlying IP for an adaptation. Amore is an art theft expert — he's currently head of security at the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum, working to recover the 13 master-pieces stolen 35 years ago. He also worked on post-9/11 terrorism cases for DHS. He's written best-selling books on stolen Rembrandts and on the notorious theft of the only privately owned Vermeer (which is being developed as a limited series). He's also been following this case longer than most, having started when Walshe was earlier charged with art forgery. He followed the trial from the courtroom and wrote about it extensively on Substack. The book just sold to Pegasus and won't be published for a year, but the screen rights are being shopped as we speak.

Walshe was a privileged ne'er-do-well who built his life on fraud and cons, including bilking his own dad of half a million dollars. When Ana disappeared, he was awaiting sentencing on federal charges for scamming an L.A. couple out of \$80K by selling them a pair of fake Warhols. Initially, Walshe's ability to pull off these scams stemmed from his confidence and polish. He knew how to talk to people, move in wealthy circles and look like he belonged. But he would also become sloppy. His fakes weren't polished and the scams couldn't withstand serious scrutiny.

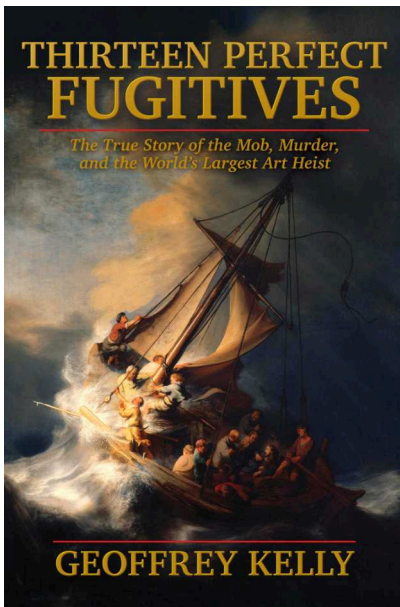
Ana was the opposite, a classic immigrant striver who had come to the U.S. from Serbia and who'd worked her way up from the bottom of the hospitality business to a high-powered job at Tishman Speyer. Her 2023 disappearance was only discovered when her employer reported that she didn't show up for work in Washington, D.C. (Ana commuted between the capital and the couple's home in a wealthy Boston suburb). Brian claimed that Ana left for Washington, D.C. on New Year's Day and wasn't all that concerned that he hadn't heard from her.

His story quickly fell apart. Especially after police discovered damning Google searches on his child's iPad for "Best way to dispose of a body," "Better to throw away crime scene clothes or wash them" and "Can you be charged with murder without a body." Just before trial, Walshe floated the cockamamie story that Ana had died of natural causes and that he simply cut up and disposed of the body out of fear that no one would believe he wasn't responsible for her death.

Amore's book promises to go deep on both Walshe and the murder. Roughly half of it follows Brian and Ana's early life — his screwed-up childhood, her move to the States, their meeting and courtship, his Warhol scam, how he plundered his father's estate after his 2018 death. The second half is a detailed account of the investigation, from her disappearance to his recent conviction. Amore links the art fraud with the murder, noting that Walshe shared "the same anti-social tendencies as the major art fraudsters of recent years: an overabundance of hubris combined with a sloppiness borne of an inflated self-confidence. It's a trend in forgery scandals, and a trend we will see later in Walshe's greatest crime."

This is a smart take. It's also why I think this would be a good underlying IP for a TV movie or a limited series. Walshe is the kind of central character who's hard to like and even harder to ignore. He's a real-life Tom Ripley. Meanwhile, Ana is his sympathetic victim — the one who gets you to shout at the TV: "Get out while you can!"

REPS:SHARLENEMARTIN/MARTIN LIT. MGMT./ELIZABETH NEWMAN,LITERATE



# 13 PERFECT FUGITIVES

BY GEOFFREY KELLY

POST HILL PRESS, MARCH 2026

"A surprisingly fun book about cop life, FBI life, and crime life. Casual and deft at the same time, it's hard to put this one down except for meals." **Steve Martin**

On March 18, 1990, the world's largest art heist occurred. We're aware there have been a few books written about this robbery years ago, but most of them got it wrong. And none has been authored (with written approval by the FBI) by the FBI's longest-tenured case agent assigned to the Art Crime Division investigation who solved the theft. As St. Patrick's Day festivities were winding down in Boston, thirteen pieces of artwork were plucked from the walls of the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum by two subjects posing as police officers. They rang the night bell, claiming they were responding to a call of a disturbance. The guard on duty, against protocol, let them in. As the author writes, "not since some Trojan night watchman signed for the big wooden horse has a greater lapse in security led to such dire consequences."

After incapacitating the guards with handcuffs and duct tape, the subjects spent the next eighty-one minutes inside the museum, almost leisurely removing some of the world's most valuable pieces of artwork from the walls, including a rare Vermeer and Rembrandt's only known seascape. The total loss associated with this robbery has been estimated at over ONE BILLION Dollars.

Geoffrey Kelly was the lead investigator, right up until his recent retirement from the FBI. During that time, he traveled the world, running down leads in his sometimes-Quixotic effort to find the stolen artwork. He has dined with fine art collectors, appraisers, and museum directors. He has also dined with mobsters, thieves, and killers. It was through his associations with the latter group, those denizens of a seamy and nefarious underworld, where he made the most progress on the case. In 2009, the author received a break; information which corroborated previously established theories about the heist and the individuals responsible. For the first time since the robbery occurred, the author spoke to witnesses with first-hand knowledge of the crime and, more importantly, witnesses who had actually seen the artwork with their own eyes in the years since it was stolen from the museum. The author followed the trail of the artwork, eventually led him to an aging used-car salesman from Hartford, Connecticut named Bobby "The Cook" Gentile.

In addition to selling cars, the enigmatic Gentile was also a soldier in the Philadelphia mob who trafficked narcotics and built homemade silencers. Relentless investigation by the author determined that Gentile took possession of a number of the stolen paintings in or about 2002 from an associate of Carmello "Mello" Merlino, a Boston mobster referred to by the FBI as a "person of interest" in the heist. Merlino and his crew operated a drug trafficking operation out of an auto parts storefront in Boston. One of his associates, George Reissfelder, drove a Dodge that was identical to the one driven by the robbers to the museum that night. Six weeks later, a family member helped him hang one of the stolen paintings on his bedroom wall. Less than a year later, Reissfelder was found dead under suspicious circumstances. And two weeks later so was Lenny DiMuzio, another Merlino associate whose bullet-riddled body was discovered in the trunk of his car in East Boston. Readers will learn that another Merlino associate, Bobby Donati, once tried to sell one of the stolen Gardner items to a Boston jeweler six weeks after the heist; the dealer demurred because the piece was "too hot." That September, Donati also ended up the trunk of his car, beaten and stabbed to death. And their associate Jimmy Marks, who was bragging months after the heist that he had two of the stolen paintings hidden in his apartment, was gunned down in February on his front porch in a "classic mob-style hit." 1991 was certainly a busy year for the Gardner. **These are details that have not become well known and keep the suspense of this true crime moving throughout the book.**

Based on the author's meticulous investigation, conducted to the exacting standards required of an FBI special agent, the Bureau, in conjunction with the Boston U.S. Attorney's Office and the Gardner Museum, announced that the case had finally been solved. Although the paintings have yet to be recovered, the FBI finally knew who had committed the robbery. The story of 13 Perfect Fugitives is a first-person account, including extensive interviews with mobsters, witnesses, victims, informants, and family members. This book painstakingly details the author's twenty-two-year journey to find the world's most valuable stolen artwork, providing insight and hopefully a little humor along the way. The author has always thought of the missing objects as thirteen perfect fugitives. Instead, they hide, secreted far away prying eyes and nosy FBI agents, biding their time.

**BOSTON NPR VIDEO INTERVIEW 3-30-26** 

## THE OPTIONIST.

12/4/2024

## THIRTEEN PERFECT FUGITIVES

FOR FANS OF: *THE THOMAS CROWN AFFAIR* AND *OCEAN'S 12***This is one you should jump on, stat. - Written by Andy B. Lewis, *The Optionist***

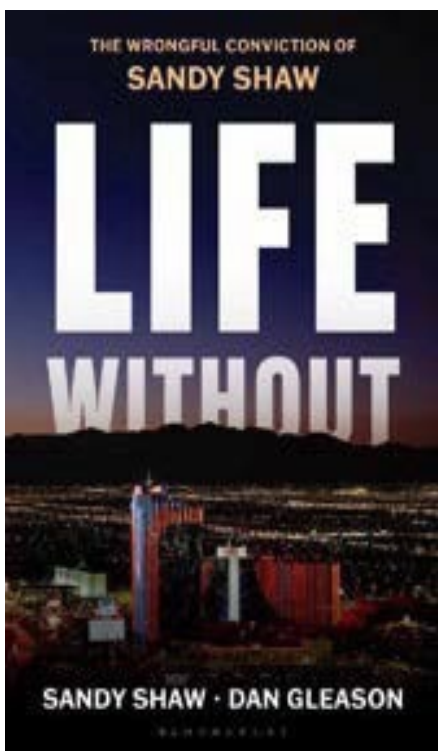
The daring and brazen 1990 robbery of the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum has long fascinated Bostonians like me, who grew up in its wake. But it has also captivated true-crime aficionados beyond the 617 area code. It's spawned documentaries, podcasts, novels and true-crime books. But none have told the tale from the perspective of the longest-tenured FBI investigator in the case, Geoffrey J. Kelly, who finally shares his story. A quick recap: On Sunday, March 18, 1990, just a day after the heavily Irish city celebrated St. Patrick's Day, two people posing as cops gained entry to the museum. They tied up the guards and stole 13 major artworks, including a rare Vermeer and the only seascape that Rembrandt ever painted. The value of their haul in today's market: \$1 billion. It immediately became the most famous unsolved art theft in world. The big break in the case finally came in 2009, when the FBI arrested used-car salesman and alleged mobster Robert "The Cook" Gentile on firearm charges. Gentile, who was already a person of interest in the Isabella Stewart Gardner heist, led them to Carmello "Mello" Merlino, a mobster who operated a drug trafficking operation out of an auto parts storefront in Boston. That led them to the pair's associates, who were likely involved in the crime and who all died mysteriously soon after. Nobody was ever officially convicted in the case, but in 2013, with all the key suspects dead at that point (Gentile died in 1999, Merlino in 2005), the FBI declared that the case had been solved. The paintings still haven't been recovered.

The proposal begins with the robbery, skips ahead to Gentile's arrest, and then doubles back to map all of the twists and turns along the way. Kelly ends with the case being "solved," convinced that the art will eventually be recovered. But in the meantime, he says the notion that this was "the perfect crime" simply isn't true. The artwork isn't actually worth that \$1 billion figure; it's not worth anything because the thieves will never be able to offload treasures this hot. To be a perfect crime, the criminals need to be able to enjoy the spoils of their ill-gotten gains, right?

Kelly does a great job of bringing his own perspective to the case, but he also interviews cops, investigators and mobsters and lets them air their opinions. This might be Kelly's first book, but he shows a great eye for character (as you might expect from a seasoned detective) and a born raconteur's knack for storytelling. This is a fresh -and welcome -take on the case.

Kelly's career, though, goes much deeper than just the Isabella Stewart Gardner case. He's investigated everything from Tom Brady's stolen Super Bowl jersey to the unidentified "Lady of the Dunes" murder to finding and returning 22 Okinawan treasures missing since WWII. Another one of his cases, which involved a string of armored car heists, was the basis for Ben Affleck's *The Town*, with Jon Hamm playing a fictionalized version of the author. After hanging up his badge and retiring earlier this year, Kelly founded Argus Cultural Property Consultants, a firm that is fittingly dedicated to helping people protect valuable art.

So how to adapt this? Well, there's a couple of possibilities. The first is a movie that revolves around Kelly. It would be a cerebral procedural about a dogged, shrewd investigator. Hamm again? I'd buy that. Still, Kelly's entire career is so fascinating someone might consider turning it into a series about the head of Boston's FBI office getting handed case files that range from the weird (Super Bowl jerseys) to the notorious (Lady of the Dunes) to the unsolvable (the Gardner theft). I would structure it with the Gardner theft as the central, multi-season mystery and pepper it with some smaller, solved-in-one-episode crimes. In fact, I think this approach would be especially fitting for today's shorter-season world in which some procedurals (Bosch, *The Lincoln Lawyer*, etc.) are better at 10-ish episodes than they would be at the 20-ish of a network.



# LIFE WITHOUT

## The Wrongful Conviction of Sandy Shaw

By Sandy Shaw and Dan Gleason

Bloomsbury, October 2025

How many fifteen-year-old girls have witnessed four murders? Well, Sandy Shaw wishes she wasn't in that group. In 1987, when Sandy heard the bark of the first pistol shot right next to her ear, she bolted and ran for her life.

Touted as the “**Show & Tell Killer**” by the media because a crooked prosecutor told the press and jury she took classmates to view the dead body, Sandy was immediately maligned by the press. She was convicted and sentenced to **two life terms without parole** and became the **youngest female ever incarcerated in an adult Nevada prison**. Shaw endured **twenty-one years in prison and fifteen more on “lifetime parole”** for this **wrongful conviction** before being **fully exonerated in June of 2022** by the Nevada Supreme Court.

Yet, she lost her entire youth in the process—the best years of her life. She never went to Prom. Never got married. Never had kids. Her dreams were stripped away. And she has **never** told her story. Now—being fully free—the time is right to tell.

Life Without is a crisis-driven tale of violence and murder, tragedy and injustice, and ultimately—triumph. This true life story is of a woman with extreme bad luck, a childhood ripped away, generations of dysfunction before and alongside her who endured abuse of all kinds, and who still found her way to freedom and redemption after so many years of being denied.

“Like most of society, I’m fascinated by true crime stories. What happened to Sandy Shaw at the young age of 15 is unbelievable. As a master storyteller, Dan Gleason beautifully conveys Sandy’s unfortunate story and her long fight to clear her name.

—Kristina Rivera, producer, American Sniper, Sully, and The Mule

“Sandy Shaw’s powerful story, in the hands of writer Dan Gleason, is hard to put down. Gleason, with empathy and admiration, details how Shaw used her prison time to grow as a compassionate person. This is a story of redemption and reclaimed justice.”

—David Bonior, US House Majority Whip, 102nd and 103rd Congresses; author of When Mercy Seasons Justice

“This is an important story, the kind not often told because it includes revelations that society doesn’t want to hear. That Sandy Shaw is both willing and able to tell her story is miraculous. That Dan Gleason recognized its significance and worked for years to make it available is a public service.”  
Stephen Greenleaf, author of the John Marshall Tanner detective mystery series, The Ditto List, and Impact

“In Life Without, Dan Gleason tells Sandy Shaw’s story in her voice, with an insider’s insight, deftly recreating the crime, the trial, the bleak times that followed, and the push for the ultimate victory. It’s a hell of a story!” —William Brashler, author of The Bingo Long Traveling All-Stars and Motor Kings

## NET GALLEY REVIEWERS FOR LIFE WITHOUT

Oh, my Lord, what a story. I have no idea why Sandy Shaw isn't a bitter, twisted, seriously angry woman, but she seems a decent, well-adjusted human being. And that's a miracle given what she's gone through. And what the system put her through when she should have been protected. Ms. Shaw tells her story framed by a legal hearing. Her childhood was a farce of her father kidnapping her and her regularly changing schools and then she personally witnessed a horrendous murder. It's easy to see how she had psychological issues. At 15 she was being stalked and harassed by an older acquaintance. Unable to get rid of him, she asks a school friend to frighten him away or beat him up. That decision leads to Ms. Shaw being locked up for "Life Without". From the several incompetent lawyers who didn't do their jobs properly, to a corrupt prosecutor with a point to prove, and then a prison guard who hated her and kept writing her up for infractions, you have to keep reminding yourself that this is real. I've no idea how innocent Sandy Shaw is overall, but I do know that she was badly treated and desperately unlucky. I'm glad her mother stood by her and helped her where she could. This is a heartbreaking story of a system that really needs redrafting. But given how little the current administration cares for 'the rule of law', that's unlikely to happen any time soon. **Anne M, Reviewer**

Life Without was a great book, but an infuriating one at the same time. The gross miscarriage of justice from start to finish on Sandy's case is unforgivable. It absolutely blows my mind that she spent 21 years in prison given the circumstances of her case. She was failed by pretty much every single person that was involved. The fact that she never gave up and just kept trying again, despite the dirty moves pulled by the justice department, is inspiring. I can't imagine the mental fortitude it would take to not give up after everything she went through. **Reviewer 1509280**

I received an advance review copy for free, and I am leaving this review voluntarily. This book was absolutely insane in that the miscarriage of justice for Sandy should never have happened. This was a fantastic first-hand look at what happened to her and what can happen to others from start to finish. I appreciated her sharing how she navigated everything and I was really rooting for her. This was such an important book because it helps the average person become aware that these things happen way more than they should. When I finished the book I just wanted to give her an enormous hug. **Ellen R, Reviewer**

**THEY CALLED HER THE TEENAGE 'SHOW AND TELL' KILLER. NOW PARDONED, SHE SHARES WHAT REALLY HAPPENED (PEOPLE)** 

8 NEWS NOW INVESTIGATORS

### Sandy Shaw reflects on Las Vegas 'Show and Tell' murder trial

by: George Knapp  
Posted: Oct 6, 2025 / 08:04 PM PDT  
Updated: Oct 6, 2025 / 08:09 PM PDT

Sandy Shaw reflects on Las Vegas 'Show and Tell' murder trial



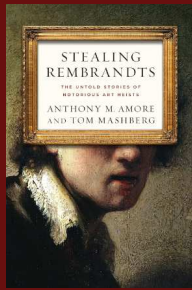
**SANDY SHAW REFLECTS ON LAS VEGAS 'SHOW AND TELL' MURDER TRIAL (8 NEWS NOW INVESTIGATION)** 

# MARTIN LITERARY MANAGEMENT TRUE CRIME BACKLIST



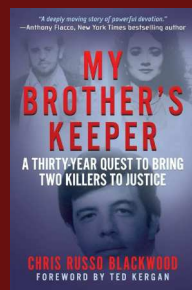
By Anthony Amore

The Art of the Con tells the stories of some of history's most notorious yet untold cons. They involve stolen art hidden for decades; elaborate ruses that involve the Nazis and allegedly plundered art; the theft of a conceptual prototype from a well-known artist by his assistant to be used later to create copies; the use of online and television auction sites to scam buyers out of millions; and other confidence scams incredible not only for their boldness but more so because they actually worked. Using interviews and newly released court documents, The Art of the Con will also take the reader into the investigations that led to the capture of the con men, who oftentimes return back to the world of crime. For some, it's an irresistible urge because their innocent dupes all share something in common: they want to believe.



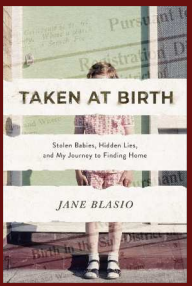
By Anthony Amore

In Stealing Rembrandts, art security expert Anthony M. Amore and award-winning investigative reporter Tom Mashberg reveal the actors behind the major Rembrandt heists. Through thefts around the world - from Stockholm to Boston, Worcester to Ohio - the authors track daring entries and escapes from the world's most renowned museums. There are robbers who coolly walk off with multimillion dollar paintings; self-styled art experts who fall in love with the Dutch master and desire to own his art at all costs; and international criminal masterminds who don't hesitate to resort to violence. They also show how museums are thwarted in their ability to pursue the thieves - even going so far as to conduct investigations on their own, far away from the maddening crowd of police intervention, sparing no expense to save the priceless masterpieces.



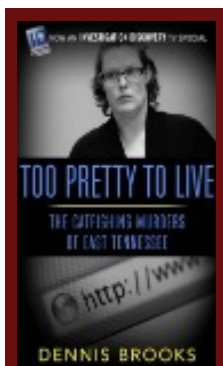
By Chris Blackwood

The moment he found out his brother was missing and presumed dead, Ted Kergan launched a relentless effort to bring two suspected killers—a teenaged-prostitute and her much older grifter boyfriend—to justice and find Gary Kergan's body. Little did he know his quest would consume a fortune and take thirty years to reach its dramatic conclusion. Thwarted at first by the fact that his brother's body could not be located and a new district attorney reluctant to prosecute as a result, Kergan had to keep track of the killers from New Orleans' notorious French Quarter to Las Vegas and points in between and wait for a break in the case that seemed like it would never come. Then nearly thirty years later, science, detective work and especially a brother's love and tenacity would combine for a resolution that would end in a dramatic trial in which one of the killers' diary would be a star witness.



By Jane Blasio

From the 1940s through the 1960s, young pregnant women entered the front door of a clinic in a small North Georgia town. Sometimes their babies exited out the back, sold to northern couples who were desperate to hold a newborn in their arms. But these weren't adoptions--they were transactions. And one unethical doctor was exploiting other people's tragedies. Jane Blasio was one of those babies. At six, she learned she was adopted. At fourteen, she first saw her birth certificate, which led her to begin piecing together details of her past. Jane undertook a decades-long personal investigation to not only discover her own origins but identify and reunite other victims of the Hicks Clinic human trafficking scheme. Along the way she became an expert in illicit adoptions, serving as an investigator and telling her story on every major news network.



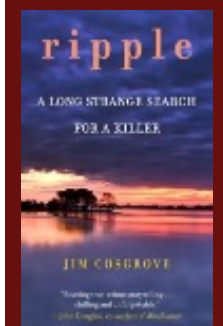
By Dennis Brooks

Chris was a CIA agent who was concerned about Jenelle. Seeing the cyberbullying she had endured, and worried for her safety, Chris got in touch with Jenelle's protective parents, and her devoted boyfriend, warning them that Payne and Hayworth were a danger to Jenelle. He got especially close with Jenelle's mother, Barbara, who thought of Chris like a son, though she had never met him. Chris claimed that surveillance of Payne and Hayworth revealed that the two of them were planning on harming Jenelle, that it was imminent, and that something needed to be done immediately. Chris promised that he would have their back if they were to act to protect Jenelle. And so they did. Jenelle's father, Buddy, and her boyfriend, Jamie, broke into the home of Payne and Hayworth and murdered them in their own home. What the police investigation turned up, though, made this crime all the more terrifying. Jenelle had been Chris the entire time, catfishing her family and her boyfriend to act in vengeance on her behalf.



By Andy Caldwell

In 1995, NFL great and movie star O. J. Simpson beat a murder rap for the death of his wife, Nicole Brown Simpson, and her friend, Ron Goldman. But in 2007, his luck with avoiding Lady Justice ran out in Las Vegas. Room 1203 is the true story of the convoluted and bizarre events surrounding a violent armed robbery of a sports memorabilia collector in a Vegas hotel. On that night, Simpson put an exclamation mark on his spectacular fall from the height of Hollywood's glamour and glitz to a shadowy world of scams and schemers in Sin City.



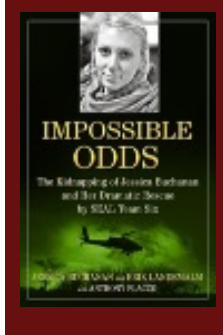
By Jim Cosgrove

Just south of Myrtle Beach Frank McGonigle body was discovered. His murder unsolved for years when Jim Cosgrove, investigative journalist, picked up the trail of Frank's cold case and began uncovering connections to a ruthless local crime boss and blunders by the threadbare sheriff's department. When his research began to stall, a chance meeting with the soft-hearted, "energy reader" Carol Williams provided a metaphysical spark that reignited Jim's resolve. Although his work as a journalist trained him to be skeptical, Cosgrove found himself starting to become a believer when Carol provided details about Frank's murder that turned out to be freakishly accurate. In 2019, Cosgrove returned to Murrells Inlet with one of Frank's brothers to dredge up some old leads and settle Frank's case once and for all...



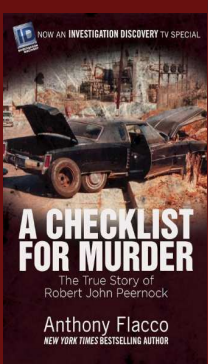
By Holly Dunn

On August 28, 1997, just as she was starting her junior year at the University of Kentucky, Holly Dunn and her boyfriend, Chris Maier, were walking along railroad tracks on their way home from a party when they were attacked by notorious serial killer Angel Maturino Reséndiz, aka The Railroad Killer. After her boyfriend is beaten to death in front of her, Holly is stabbed, raped, and left for dead. In this memoir of survival and healing from a horrific true crime, Holly recounts how she lived through the vicious assault, helped bring her assailant to justice, and ultimately found meaning and purpose through service to victims of sexual assault and other violent crimes.



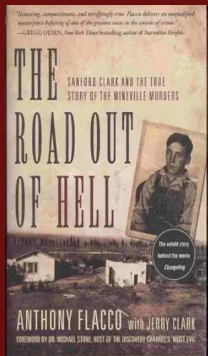
By Anthony Flacco

In 2006, twenty-seven-year-old Jessica Buchanan stepped off a plane in Nairobi, Kenya, with a teaching degree. By 2009, she married a native Swede named Erik Landemalm. Together the two moved from Nairobi to Somalia to start a family, their future couldn't have been brighter. But on October 25, 2011, Jessica and a colleague were kidnapped at gunpoint and held for ransom by a band of Somali pirates. Every terrifying moment Jessica Buchanan spent suffering in captivity was matched by that of her adoring husband working behind the scenes to deal with her captors. In riveting detail, this book chronicles Jessica and Erik's mutual journey during those torturous months.



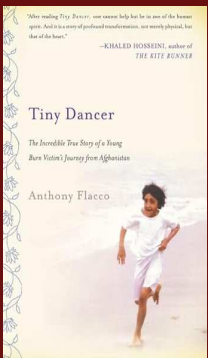
By Anthony Flacco

The Peernocks cast the impression of being a very well-to-do family, even after the separation of Richard and his wife. But madness was contained inside their house and one night Richard Peernock came to kill his wife and daughter, brutally beating them, force feeding them alcohol and placing them together in a car which he let drive into a wall so that it would seem like a drunk driving accident. What Richard Peernock didn't foresee was his daughter's survival and her willingness for the first time to describe, in detail, her father's psychosis and his manipulative personality. Peernock denied his involvement in the murder, claiming a conspiracy against him on all levels. Confounding the justice system, hiring and firing lawyers, representing himself, saying everyone was against him. After numerous tense trials, Peernock was finally sentenced to life in prison, though those close to him still live in fear.



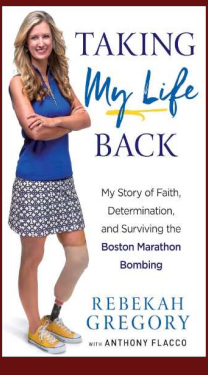
By Anthony Flacco

From 1926 to 1928, Gordon Stewart Northcott committed at least 20 murders on a chicken ranch outside of Los Angeles. His nephew, Sanford Clark, was held captive there from the age of 13 to 15 and was the sole surviving victim of the killing spree. Here, acclaimed crime writer Anthony Flacco using never-before-heard information from Sanford's son Jerry Clark tells the real story behind the case that riveted the nation. Forced by Northcott to take part in the murders, Sanford carried tremendous guilt all his life. Yet despite his youth and the trauma, he helped gain some justice for the dead and their families by testifying at Northcott's trial which led to his conviction and execution. It was a shocking story, but perhaps the most shocking part of all is the extraordinarily ordinary life Clark went on to live as a decorated WWII vet, a devoted husband of 55 years, a loving father, and a productive citizen. In dramatizing one of the darkest cases in American crime, Flacco constructs a riveting psychological drama about how Sanford was able to detoxify himself from the evil he'd encountered, offering the ultimately redemptive story of one man's remarkable ability to survive a nightmare and emerge intact.



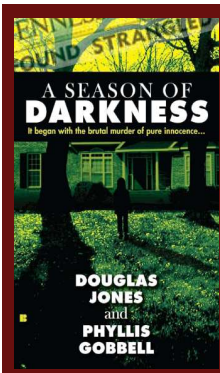
By Anthony Flacco

The astonishing story of a brave little girl from Afghanistan who not only survived horrific disfiguring burns but was given a second chance at life. *Tiny Dancer* is the amazing true story of Zubaida Hasan, a nine-year-old girl from the remote deserts of Afghanistan who, in the summer of 2001, accidentally fell into a kerosene fire while heating water for a bath. Though she was horribly mutilated, her father refused to give up and exhaustively sought help to save his child. When an American Green Beret soldier by chance sees Zubaida and her father on the street, he decides he must get involved. With assistance from many members of the U.S. military, little Zubaida is given a second chance at life. She is flown to Los Angeles to begin a two-year journey through a series of surgeries performed by famed burn surgeon Dr. Peter Grossman. He and his wife, Rebecca, eventually take the child into their own home. This is a heartfelt and inspiring story of incredible courage equally matched by incredible kindness.



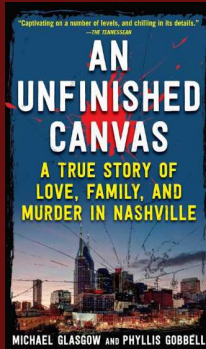
By REBECCA GREGORY with Anthony Flacco

On April 15, 2013, Rebekah Gregory and her five-year-old son waited at the finish line of the Boston Marathon to support a friend who was running. When the blasts of terrorists' homemade bombs packed with nails and screws went off three feet away, Rebekah's legs took the brunt of the blast, protecting her son from certain death. Eighteen surgeries and sixty-five procedures later, her left leg was amputated. Despite the extraordinary trauma she underwent and the nightmares she continues to have, Rebekah sees it as just another part of her personal journey, a journey that has led her through abuse, mistakes, and pain and into the arms of Jesus. This stirring memoir tells the story of her recovery, including her triumphant return to Boston two years later to run part of the race, and explores the peace we experience when we learn to trust God with every part of our lives--the good, the bad, and even the terrifying.



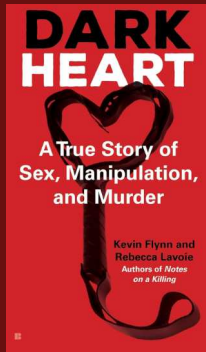
Phyllis Gobbell and Douglas Jones

The horrific true crime cold case of Marcia Trimble, the little girl who disappeared while selling Girl Scout cookies and was discovered a month later, strangled. This mystery haunted her family for over 30 years... When nine-year-old Marcia Trimble was murdered in 1975, her devastated parents believed justice would be served. But without a clear suspect in sight and without the ability to analyze DNA evidence, fingers pointed toward the family and toward neighborhood boys without any definitive conclusion. Police were left at a loss to find any kind of evidence that would lay this brutal murder case to rest and bring peace to the long-suffering family of this innocent little girl. *A Season of Darkness* catalogs the gruesome account of the murder and its awful aftermath, detailing the thirty years of wondering, silence, and investigation that would eventually lead to a shocking, unexpected, and long-awaited conclusion.



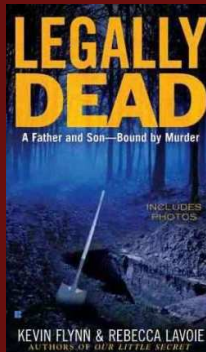
By Michael Glasgow & Phyllis Gobbell

Janet March had it all: a corporate lawyer husband, two beautiful children, a promising career as an artist, and a dream house she designed herself. But behind closed doors, her husband led a destructive double life. On August 16, 1996, Janet had an appointment to finally file for divorce. But she never arrived. On the night of August 15, she vanished. Janet's disappearance incited a massive search and media frenzy that revealed her husband Perry's seedy dealings. When he absconded with his children to a new life in Mexico, Janet's parents began a decade-long, international custody battle that culminated in Perry's dramatic extradition to Tennessee. Meanwhile, the Nashville Police Department never found Janet's body. In spite of overwhelming odds, cold case detectives and prosecutors were determined to get justice—and with the help of a shocking surprise witness, they did.



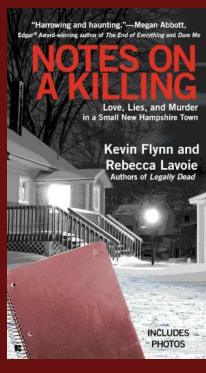
By Kevin Flynn

Was murder part of the game? Seventeen-year-old Kat McDonough grew up with theater in her blood - and a penchant for make-believe. More than a decade older, Seth Mazzaglia was well-known in the community theater circle of Portsmouth, New Hampshire. He, too, had a rich inner life - and he soon had Kat convinced that they were soul mates. To intensify their bond, Seth lured Kat into a world of violent sex and role-playing, where she was his slave. But even that wasn't enough to satisfy his ravenous appetites. Enter Lizzi Marriott, the new girl in town. And when she accepts an invitation to Kat and Seth's apartment, she will never be seen again....



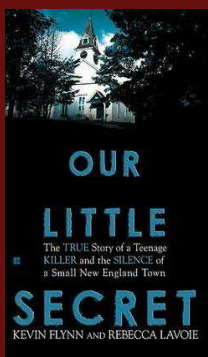
By Kevin Flynn

The true story of one of the most bizarre and harrowing crime stories in New England history. Attorney Seth Bader and his wife, Vicki, moved to New Hampshire in 1992. Three tumultuous years later, their marriage ended and left Vicki a broken woman, driven to the edge as Seth manipulated their teenage son Joey into a violent plot to kill her in cold blood. This deeply researched account covers the police investigation, the court case, and the aftermath for the survivors of this chilling crime.



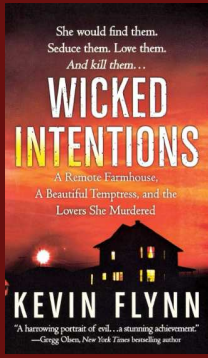
By Kevin Flynn

Their friendship would kill her... Weaver and fiber artist Edith "Pen" Meyer knew her friend Sandy Merritt's relationship with a married man was wrong. She had even urged Sandy to take out a restraining order against Kenneth Carpenter. Which was why her call to Sandy on February 23, 2005, seemed to come from out of the blue. During it, she told Sandy to drop the restraining order and get back together with Ken. Pen was never seen again. One man stood to gain from Pen's disappearance: Ken Carpenter. But evidence was bleak: no blood, no DNA, no body. Until detectives found notes hidden beneath a leather chair that turned out to be a playbook for murder...



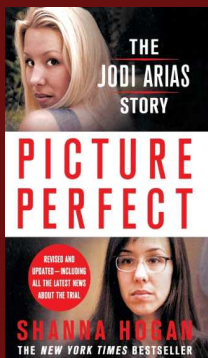
By Kevin Flynn

The true story of a teenage killer and the silence of a small New England town. For twenty years Daniel Paquette's murder in New Hampshire went unsolved. It remained a secret between two high school friends until Eric Windhurst's arrest in 2005. What was revealed was a crime born of adolescent passion between Eric and Daniel's stepdaughter, Melanie- redefining the meaning of loyalty, justice, and revenge.



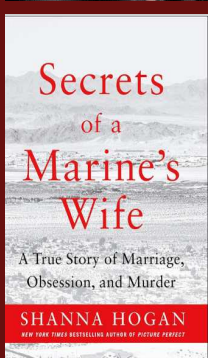
By Kevin Flynn

A beautiful woman in her forties, Sheila LaBarre had no problem attracting men. She preferred her lovers to be young and submissive. Once she gained a man's trust, she would invite him to live with her at her secluded New Hampshire farm, where she could play out her dark twisted games of abuse, torture, and revenge. Many of her lovers were never seen again. But when police discovered a human bone protruding from a smoking burn pit on Sheila's property, the whole world learned the shocking truth behind this seductive woman's wicked intentions.



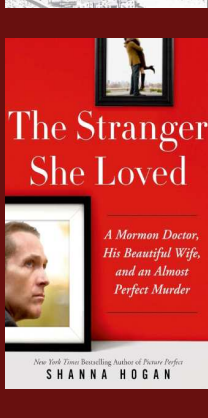
By Shana Hogan

Travis Alexander was a handsome, practicing Mormon who lived in Mesa, Arizona. His good looks made him popular with everyone, especially the ladies. But when he was found brutally murdered with a bullet wound in the face and his throat slashed, the shocking crime sent waves throughout his community. Who could have committed such a sinister act? Suspicion soon fell on Jodi Arias, Travis's ex-girlfriend. Though they had broken up, Jodi moved from California to just miles from Travis's home and began inserting herself into his daily life. Investigators found startling evidence in Travis's home that implicated Jodi. But in a bizarre turn of events, Jodi claimed self-defense. Was she a victim, or a dangerous, obsessed stalker?



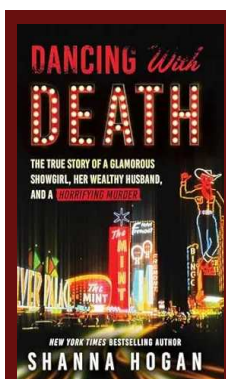
By Shana Hogan

The true story of a young Marine wife whose illicit affair ended in tragedy. In June 2014, 19-year-old Erin Corwin was living a quiet life in Twentynine Palms, California, expecting her first child with her husband, U.S. Marine Corporal Jon Corwin—until the day she drove off into the desert and never returned. Nearly two months after her disappearance, Corwin's body was found at the bottom of an abandoned mine shaft, a homemade garrote wrapped around her throat. Suspicions mounted within the tight-knit Marine community as residents questioned if the killer was one of their own.



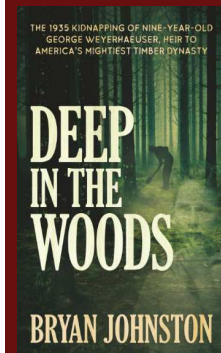
By Shana Hogan

In 2007, Dr. Martin MacNeill—a doctor, lawyer, and Mormon bishop—discovered his wife of 30 years dead in the bathtub of their Pleasant Grove, Utah home, her face bearing the scars of a facelift he persuaded her to undergo just a week prior. At first the death of 50-year-old Michele MacNeill, a former beauty queen and mother of eight, appeared natural. But days after the funeral when Dr. MacNeill moved his much younger mistress into the family home, his children grew suspicious. Conducting their own investigation into their mother's death, the MacNeill's daughters uncovered their father's multiple marital affairs, past criminal record, and falsified college transcripts he used to con his way into medical school. It would take six long years to solve the mystery of Michele's murder and secure a first-degree murder conviction against the once prominent doctor. New York Times bestselling author Shanna Hogan delves into the high-profile case, unmasking the monster beneath the doctor's carefully concocted façade.



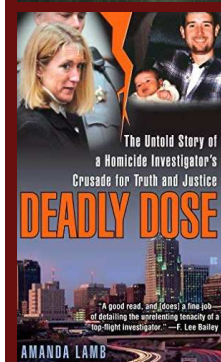
By Shana Hogan

Phoenix, Arizona, 2004. Former stripper turned suburban housewife Marjorie Orbin filed a missing person's report on her husband. She claimed that Jay, a successful art dealer, had left town on business after celebrating their son's birthday more than a month before. Jay loved his family more than life itself—and no one believed he would ever abandon them. Authorities suspected foul play...



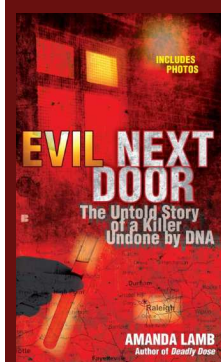
By Brian Johnston

In 1935, nine-year-old George Weyerhaeuser, heir to one of the wealthiest families in America, is snatched off the streets two blocks from his home. The boy is kept manacled in a pit, chained to a tree, and locked in a closet. The perps—a career bank robber, a petty thief, and his nineteen-year-old never-been-in-trouble Mormon wife—quickly become the targets of the biggest manhunt in Northwest history. The caper plays out like a Hollywood thriller with countless twists and improbable developments. Perhaps the most astonishing thing of all, though, is how it all ends.



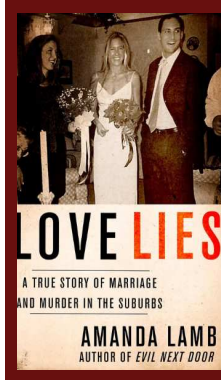
By Amanda Lamb

The death of promising young pediatric AIDS researcher Eric Miller stunned the Raleigh, North Carolina, community, largely because of the horrific way he was killed. For months, Eric was slowly tortured as arsenic consumed his body. No one thought that Eric Miller's wife, Ann—an attractive, demure, educated scientist—could be capable of such a horrible crime. No one except for veteran homicide investigator Chris Morgan, a man in the twilight of his career. But from the moment Morgan saw the thirty-year-old widow in the interview room at the police department, he knew he was seeing pure evil. Now, journalist Amanda Lamb details Morgan's dogged investigation—a quest for the truth that would last four years and see another life taken before Ann Miller's tangled web of death and deceit finally came to light.



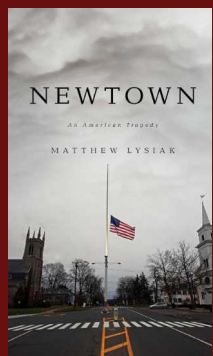
By Amanda Lamb

A three-and-a-half year search for a killer who was always so close-yet untouchable. After the rape and murder of Raleigh, North Carolina, resident Stephanie Bennett, police had ample DNA evidence. They also had a suspect: the man next door. But for more than three years, he eluded them by refusing to hand over a DNA sample, wiping down anything he touched and even planting decoy samples. This is the gripping story of how a team of detectives finally tripped him up-and brought closure to an innocent young woman's family.



By Amanda Lamb

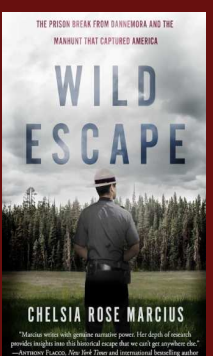
When Nancy Cooper moved from Canada to Cary, North Carolina with her new husband Brad, their future was bright: living in one of the most picturesque towns in the US, the couple mingled with neighbors, attended parties, and raised two daughters. Then, on July 14th, 2008, the façade came crashing down when Nancy's strangled body was found in a storm pond. Nancy's husband claimed that she had gone for a jog and never come back. But as the police investigation deepened, and as Brad was brought to trial for murdering his wife, a complex web of affairs and lies was uncovered involving multiple residents of Cary's idyllic neighborhoods. At the heart of it stood the Coopers' soured marriage, Nancy's threat to leave with the children, and her own cold-blooded murder. It would take a mountain of damning evidence before justice was served.



By Matthew Lysiak

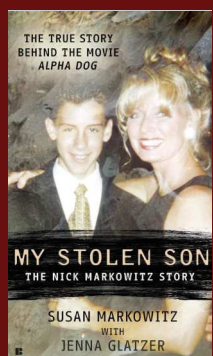
Sandy Hook Elementary School Newton, Connecticut

We remember the numbers: 20 children and 6 adults, murdered in a place of nurture and trust. We remember the names: teachers like Victoria Soto, who lost her life protecting her students. A shooter named Adam Lanza. And we remember the questions: outraged conjecture instantly monopolized the worldwide response to the tragedy—while the truth went missing. Here is the definitive journalistic account of Newtown, an essential examination of the facts— not only of that horrific day but the perfect storm of mental instability and obsession that preceded it and, in the aftermath of unspeakable heartbreak, the controversy that continues to play out on the national stage. Drawn from previously undisclosed emails, police reports, and in-depth interviews, *Newtown: An American Tragedy* breaks through a miasma of misinformation with its comprehensive and astonishing portrayal.



By Chelsia Marcus

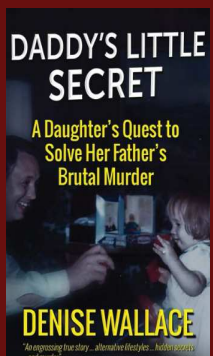
On June 6, 2015, inmates Richard Matt and David Sweat escaped from Clinton Correctional Facility, New York State's largest maximum-security prison. The media was instantly obsessed with the story: aided by a prison seamstress, who smuggled hacksaw blades, chisels, and drill bits inside the facility via a vat of raw hamburger meat, the two convicted murderers sliced their way through steel cell walls, meandered through a maze of tunnels, climbed out of a manhole, and walked off into the night. The public hung on to every twist as the story developed. After nearly three weeks on the run, U.S. Customs and Border Patrol agent Christopher Voss shot and killed Matt on June 26, 2015. Two days later New York State Police Sgt. Jay Cook shot Sweat twice in the back. He survived. While we have come to learn how Matt and Sweat pulled off perhaps the most elaborate modern day prison break, no reporter, except Chelsia Rose Marcus, has talked directly to Sweat to ask the most important question in the case: Of all the inmates who dream of escape, why was he the one who could make it happen?



By Susan Markowitz

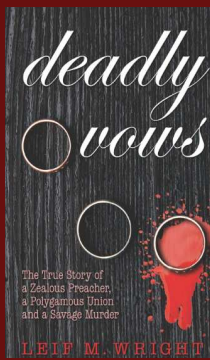
The true story of the shocking crime behind the hit movie *Alpha Dog*

One week after fifteen-year-old Nick Markowitz vanished, his mother received the news: Nick's body had been found in a shallow grave. Now she tells her own gripping story—the unbelievable motive for the murder, the shocking identity of the accused, and her own nine-year battle to bring her son's killers to justice.



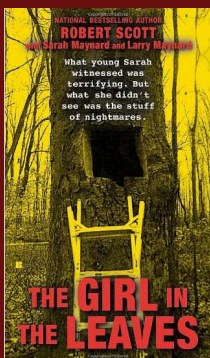
By Denise Wallace

The true crime story of a father's murder and a daughter's discovery of his Jekyll-and-Hyde double-life in pursuit of his killer. Denise Wallace had spent years hiding deadly secrets about her enigmatic father, Wesley Wallace. Wes was a trusted security guard of the Ritz Carlton Palm Beach. He was supposed to protect those who found themselves in his care. But a closer look into his brutal murder revealed a split personality—one that his daughter may have seen but tried to ignore. However, detectives assigned to the case persuaded her to assist them in the capture of her father's killer. The trail would lead from the glitz of Palm Beach to the murky streets of Dixie Highway and end in a courtroom where her father's secret life, and his dangerous penchant for sex slaves, would be revealed.



By Leif Wright

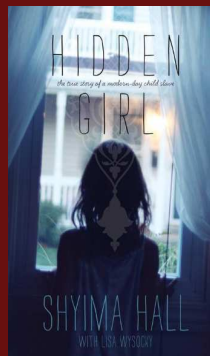
Sean Goff was a dynamic Pentecostal minister who was already running his own church by the age of twenty-two. He had wed a pliable teenager and bent her to his will, eventually convincing her to agree to his secretly taking a second wife named Joy. Although at first the clandestine arrangement worked well, problems soon began to surface. Leif Wright, Sean's friend and co-worker, confronted Sean about his hidden polygamous lifestyle, which threatened to scandalize their employer, a world-famous televangelist. Sean's foray into polygamy led to his association with an online community where he earned respect by dispensing advice to other evangelical polygamists. He derided divorce as the sign of a weak man who didn't know how to lead his women. It was especially troublesome to Sean when Joy hinted that she wasn't happy and wanted to have a meaningful career. Then Joy suddenly disappeared, although friends continued to receive her e-mails. The messages seemed strange, and some wondered whether she was really traveling around Europe. Leif Wright takes his readers into the mind of a ruthless, controlling killer in this straight-from-the-headlines true crime saga, leaving us all to question just how well any of us really knows our neighbors, friends and spouses.



By Robert Scott

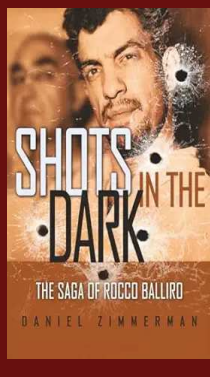
In the fall of 2010, in the all-American town of Apple Valley, Ohio, four people disappeared without a trace: Stephanie Sprang; her friend, Tina Maynard; and Tina's two children, thirteen-year-old Sarah and eleven-year-old Kody. Investigators began scouring the area, yet despite an extensive search, no signs of the missing people were discovered.

On the fourth day of the search, evidence trickled in about neighborhood "weirdo" Matthew Hoffman. A police SWAT team raided his home and found an extremely disturbing sight: every square inch of the place was filled with leaves and a terrified Sarah Maynard was bound up in the middle of it like some sort of perverted autumn tableau. But there was no trace of the others. Then came Hoffman's confession to an unspeakable crime that went beyond murder and defied all reason. His tale of evil would make Sarah's survival and rescue all the more astonishing—a compelling tribute to a young girl's resilience and courage and to her fierce determination to reclaim her life in the wake of unimaginable trauma.



By Shyima Hall & Lisa Wysocky

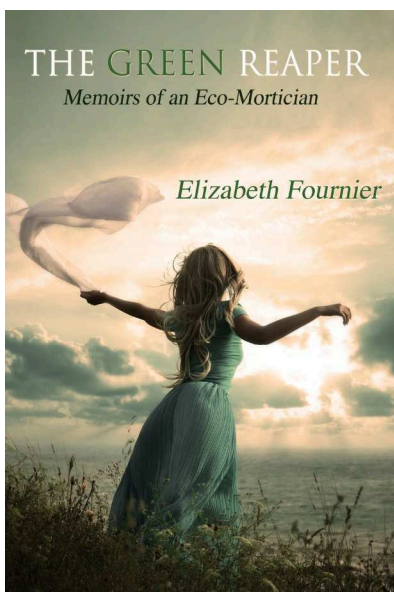
An inspiring and compelling memoir from a young woman who lost her childhood to slavery—and built a new life grounded in determination and justice. When Shyima Hall was eight years old, her impoverished parents sold her to pay a debt. Two years later, the wealthy family she was sold to, moved to Orange County, California, and smuggled her with them. Shyima served the family eighteen hours a day, seven days a week until she was twelve. That's when an anonymous call from a neighbor brought about the end of Shyima's servitude—but her journey to true freedom was far from over. A volunteer at her local police department since she was a teenager, Shyima is passionate about helping to rescue others who are in bondage. Now a US citizen, she regularly speaks out about human trafficking and intends to one day become an immigration officer.



By Dan Zimmerman

On a frigid winter night in early 1963, Rocco Anthony Balliro and a pair of associates stormed a darkened apartment on the outskirts of Boston and were immediately embroiled in a deadly shootout with several unseen assailants. Unbeknownst to Rocco at the time, the men who returned his fire were several Boston police officers, waiting in ambush for him. It was, as Rocco later described it, a hastily planned rescue mission that went downhill in a hurry. In the aftermath, his beloved girlfriend and her toddler son lay dead.

**ADULT  
NON-FICTION**



# THE GREEN REAPER

LIFE IN A ONE-WOMAN MORTUARY  
IN BORING, OREGON

By Elizabeth Fournier

WiDo Publishing 2017

Elizabeth spent a lot of time in funeral homes as a kid, not because her family was in the business, but because they were so frequently found in caskets. Her mother died when she was young; so did her grandparents. Elizabeth began to read about different cultures' death rituals in National Geographic magazine. She held a mock cemetery on her dresser, and when friends' pets died, she would perform the funeral.

Elizabeth stood out at her tiny suburban Catholic school and knew it. After her mother's death and the loss of her fond attentions, Elizabeth performed dance routines for anyone she could press into watching. Her family's garage was the scene of many elaborate recitals. The dancing put joy back in her life but did nothing to assuage her sense of wrongness. Grief had hurt Elizabeth in ways she couldn't put into words. Elizabeth felt starved for reassurance, and without it, an inner voice began to chant that she was pathetic. She wanted to crawl into a tire swing and die.

Elizabeth realized her life calling when she was offered the chance to be a live-in night keeper at a funeral home on a big hill. For Elizabeth, it was a casting call from Hollywood. She took the job and slept in a trailer on the spooky edge of the cemetery, with a shotgun under her bed. It was the scariest summer of her life, but it set things in motion. Elizabeth continued learning the ropes in the funeral world while living in the San Francisco Bay area, but her biological clock was ticking louder by the month while her dating life stalled at Dysfunction Junction. A move back to Oregon proved fruitful; in a mortuary version of romance, she found her husband after descending into the bowels of the corporate funeral home where they both were employed. (He worked there as a cremator). They soon married and together broke free from the corporate funeral home world and headed off to tiny Boring, Oregon, to make a fledging country funeral home their own. Daughter, Sofia (named after the Catholic Patron Saint of Widows) arrived the following year and Elizabeth brought her to the parlor every day. Sofia soon taught her that by lying in a grief-stricken widow's arms for a moment, and she could help the tension ease a bit. The baby held a natural gift of comforting the bereaved.

At the start of Elizabeth's career, it was truly an anomaly to walk into a funeral home and be greeted by a woman. Now Elizabeth runs a one-woman funeral service in the small town of Boring, a semi-rural community just outside of Portland. Elizabeth is the owner and operator of Cornerstone Funeral Services, the first green funeral home in the Portland Metropolitan area. She works as a green mortician and eco-educator and is affectionately known as the Green Reaper because of her passion of home funerals and natural burials. Elizabeth is always ready to lend a hand (or a shovel) and she is renowned for burying her townsfolk in their backyards.

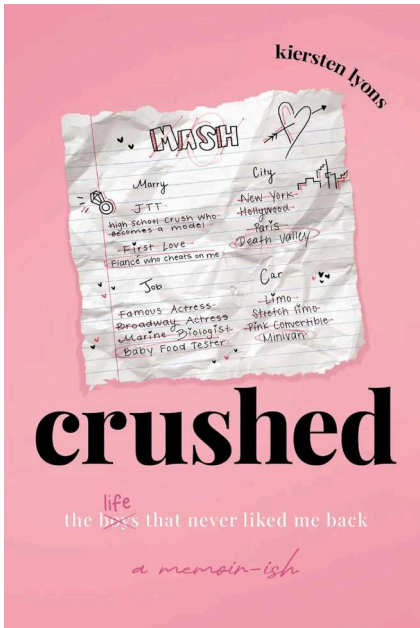


Her story weaves anecdotes linked by her "Green Reaper" philosophy of eschewing big profits and instead returning to old-school burial practices that are far kinder to humans and the Earth. Elizabeth is inherently led toward helping others relate to death through taking care of their dead, and to preparing more meaningful burials. Through these experiences, she continues to reach more of her own healing and to reestablish inner connections. Some of us work for a better life; Elizabeth works for a better death. [www.cornerstonefuneral.com](http://www.cornerstonefuneral.com)

# CRUSHED

By Kiersten Lyons

Regalo Press



While tying the bows on her wedding invitations, Kiersten’s fiancé walked in and told her he didn’t think he loved her and maybe he never had... Oh and that he cheated. At the Magic Castle. Because what’s hotter than watching Neil Patrick Harris perform magic in a fake castle in the Hollywood Hills? But don’t worry because six months later, while Kiersten was struggling to pay rent, he won \$100,000 on a reality show. Yup, 100K!!

From a broken engagement to failed dreams, to infertility, Kiersten Lyons is an expert at heartbreak. In this nostalgic memoir, cut through with equal parts anguish and humor, Lyons shows readers that they can get through even the worst moments in life just like she did.

With a big sister–like quality and on-the-nose empathy (“Why is it the minute you get your heart broken, you look around to see everyone else is doing amazing?!!”) Lyons shares her own survival stories. Her unique voice and distaste for conventional wisdom (“Why are they always telling you, “Everything happens for a reason?!”) Lyons tells her story knowing it is filled with hope and in the end, she learned to live in awe with her own life’s pivots. “What if,” she says, “knowing you aren’t alone is the first step to one day knowing you’ll be in awe too?”

*You will be happy if you braved the LA traffic. It’s worth it. Go!* Today Lyons hosts a [Crushed the Podcast](#) on Spotify with a devoted following.

Kiersten is not only a mother, but a Big Sister through Big Brothers, Big Sisters and has spent decades mentoring teens and young women from all walks of life. Her [TikTok account](#) sharing real stories and hilarious observations has amassed millions of views. Her unique voice speaks to those with and without faith, creating a tight-knit community of young women eager to laugh, cry and heal.



**Kiersten Lyons** is a writer and actress from Germantown, Maryland. She is the second of five kids and like every comedian, a late bloomer. She spent thirteen years in LA acting, writing, and getting rejected. Her most notable roles include being attacked by her pet lion on *Grey’s Anatomy*, being accused of murdering the husband she shared with her sister wives on *Bones*, and the real-life role of having her wedding called off two months before which resulted in the award-winning one-woman show, “Crushed: Why is it That the Boys you Like, Never Like You Back?” Upon seeing it, writer/producer Dan Fogelman (*Only Murders in the Building*, *This is Us*, *Crazy Stupid Love*) said this about: “I loved everything about this show. I loved it so much, I cast Kiersten in a TV show immediately after seeing it.”

See chapter titles on next page!

# CHAPTER TITLES

## PART ONE: THE HEART BREAK

### White Horse (Taylor Swift)

#### CHAPTER 1: Dear Future Husband

A letter written on Feb 2, 1996 in the hopes that someday, somewhere, someone would like me. The exact date would become one of the best days of my life, I just didn't know it yet...

#### CHAPTER 2: Dear You

A letter to the readers of this book.

The beginning of the end of the engagement, and a confession.

#### CHAPTER 4: God is Rude

Those two weeks where Ben called the wedding off and on again... TWICE and the absolute rudeness of God not giving us what we want, but what we need.

The first 60 days are always the worst. Waking up and realizing it's all real and really hurts, but somehow also having the first few glimmers of hope.

#### CHAPTER 6: Oh she\*t, It's Real

Reality sets in, as / set up back in LA, and try for the last time to get him back.

## PART TWO: THE HOW DID I GET HERE?

### Mean (Taylor Swift)

#### CHAPTER 7: "I love you" "Know"

The origins of love. You never forget your first bad boy, even if he is an action figure of Han Solo.

Changing myself, so he'd love me - at the tender age of 5 <sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub>.

#### CHAPTER 9: He's Mean Because He Likes You

The myth of mean boys: chasing Mike during recess, asking Travis out 7 times until he finally said yes, and vowing to become famous to prove ALL of them wrong.

#### CHAPTER 10: Middle School Blues

The heartbreak of being the last to bloom, and the moment we break someone else's heart. Plus a Mormon boy told me, "You have good birthing hips."

First period, first kiss, and first revenge.

#### CHAPTER 12: "Big Ole City"

Moving to Hollywood and proving them wrong. Over and over.

#### CHAPTER 13: Waiting Until Marriage

My identity was everything, until it wasn't... the heartbreak of not knowing who I was.

The first steps in failing in love with myself, becoming a Big Sister and ghosting the nice guy.

#### CHAPTER 15: Growing Up

Growing up enough to notice the nice guy. Literally. He drove right past me.

## PART THREE: THE BREAKTHROUGH

### Lose You, To Love Me (selena Gomez)

#### CHAPTER 16: Falling In Love

Learning to forgive and allowing myself to be loved. The box of truths and the redemption of the broken engagement.

When the town that held my dreams, held back. And I get crushed all over again.

#### CHAPTER 18: Left In Awe

Realizing the redemption of so much heartbreak, and somehow the hope that comes with it.

#### CHAPTER 19: My Fight with Taylor Swift

When trying to prove myself finally catches up to me and how we learn to let go.

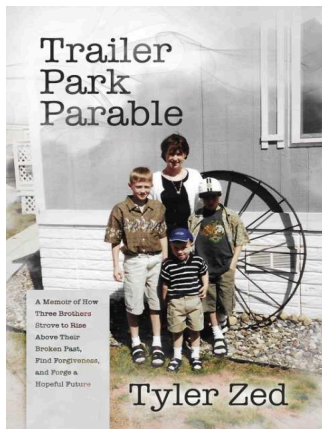
Letting go, forgiving and allowing myself to be loved (but this time by me.)

#### CHAPTER 21: Dear 14 Year Old Kiersten

Writing a letter to the girl who wrote THAT letter. Letting her know how loved she truly is.

#### CHAPTER 22: Dear 14 Year Old Me

A space with prompts to allow the reader to write to their own little girl self and words to cut out for their own box of truths.



# TRAILER PARK PARABLE

A MEMOIR OF HOW THREE BROTHERS STROVE TO RISE ABOVE THEIR BROKEN PAST, FIND FORGIVENESS, AND FORGE A HOPEFUL FUTURE

By Tyler Zed January 2024

Tyler Zed (1+ million subscribers on [YouTube](#)) delves into growing up with his two brothers amid addiction and chaos in a Minnesota trailer park, culminating in his father's arrest for the attempted murder of their mother on Christmas Eve 2007.

**“Attempted murder victim told the Brainerd Dispatch she believes her sixteen-year-old son saved her.”** This is the news article detailing the event that would drastically change Tyler Zed’s life and that of his family forever.

Growing up in a small town in Minnesota, Tyler and his two brothers filled their days with chaotic fun, from playing hockey to building forts to making their own home movies. The household was also full of addiction and abuse that ultimately led to their father attempting to murder their mother on Christmas Eve 2007.

Trailer Park Parable follows Tyler and his family before Christmas Eve 2007, the events leading to that night, and the years afterward. It trails the boys as they deal with varying degrees of PTSD and their own battles with addiction, before they eventually turned their creative coping mechanisms, like their YouTube channels, into million-subscriber successes.

From living in a trailer park to running a multi-million-dollar business, Trailer Park Parable highlights a true, American-dream story, countering a popular narrative that tells us you may as well not even try, the system is rigged against you.

### From Library Journal!

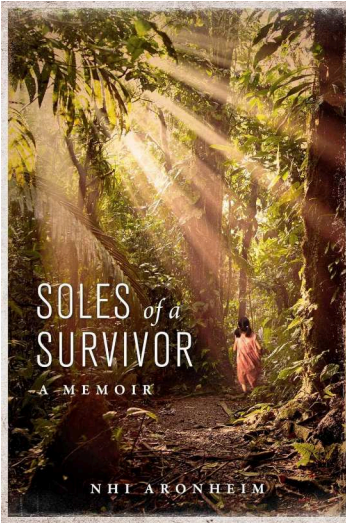
In his candid debut memoir, Zed (an alias for Desmond Janousek), host of the popular YouTube channel Zeducation, opens up about his tumultuous upbringing, juxtaposing moments of idyllic childhood with the chaos wrought by a parent’s substance-use disorder. The constant struggle to evade violence culminates in a harrowing incident where Zed and his brothers intervene to prevent their father from killing their mother, leaving them with undiagnosed PTSD in the aftermath. Through poignant storytelling, he paints a vivid picture of both the good and the bad memories, acknowledging his father as a flawed individual consumed by inherited demons he could not control. His capable delivery unveils the depths of his emotions regarding his father and the profound impact of his upbringing. As a narrator, he demonstrates a remarkable range, channeling life’s pain and pleasures with an authenticity that goes beyond that seen in Zeducation.

**VERDICT:** A tale of perseverance and resilience, Zed’s memoir will resonate deeply with fans of his other work, offering a compelling glimpse into the human spirit’s capacity for growth and redemption amid adversity.

Online personality **Tyler Zed** (real name Desmond Janousek) was born in Minnesota in 1990. He served in the United States Air Force as a medical technician from 2011 to 2015. After getting out of the military, he attended the University of Minnesota where he began creating YouTube videos as a hobby under the alias “Tyler Zed.” Years later, his channel, [Zeducation](#), has garnered over a million subscribers and receives millions of views a week. He offers commentary on memes, pop culture, current events, and politics, with his trademark good-natured humor and libertarian bent.



# SOLES OF A SURVIVOR



**The Unbelievable True Story of a Vietnamese Refugee Who Not Only Made the United States Her Home, But Learned the True Value of Hope, Love, and Religion Along the Way**

**By Nhi Aronheim, Skyhorse**

“Nhi Aronheim has lived many lives: the privileged daughter of a physician in Vietnam, frightened child who escapes barefoot through the jungles of Cambodia, refugee in Thailand with only two pieces of clothing to her name, adopted daughter of an American family in the South, and now wife, mother, and writer. In *Soles of a Survivor*, she writes beautifully about war and its aftermath, adversities and misfortunes to be overcome, the vicissitudes of religion and fate, and, ultimately, resilience, endurance, and gratitude. Her life and her words are inspiration.”—**Lisa See, New York Times bestselling author of *Snow Flower and the Secret Fan*, *The Tea Girl of Hummingbird Lane*, *Peony in Love*, *Shanghai Girls*, *Dreams of Joy*, and *China Dolls***

From one corner of the world to another, the global community is experiencing the worst refugee crisis in history. For too many of us, the reality refugees face seems far away and hard to imagine. That's one reason Nhi Aronheim's compelling new book is so helpful right now. By sharing her own story, she makes the refugee crisis real, personal and understandable for the rest of us. Her resilience and path to new life should give us hope that the same path is possible for others. We need Nhi's message now because millions of refugees need our help now more than ever.” — **Michael J. Nyenhuis, President and CEO, UNICEF USA**

The soles of Nhi Aronheim's feet still bear the scars of her escape from Vietnam—trudging through the jungles of Cambodia as a twelve-year-old with a group of strangers seeking the land of opportunity: America.

Her quest for survival through the Cambodian jungle eventually led her to a boat that took her to Thailand and an orphanage where Nhi lived for two years until she qualified for refugee status in the U.S. Years later, she returned to Vietnam to reunite with the family she never thought she'd see again. A second trip to Vietnam brought her two mothers, birth and adopted, face to face.

Yet *Soles of a Survivor* isn't just another inspirational survival story. It's about the lessons Nhi learned about humanity, diversity, and unconditional love since arriving in the United States. She now has a deeper appreciation for the parallels between the Jewish and Vietnamese cultures, and others. After she met her Jewish beau, they got married. She eventually converted to Judaism, though the process was challenging for an Asian woman adopted into a Christian household. Her story shows it matters less what religion we're part of as long as we radiate goodness to those we meet. Now she relishes being a Vietnamese Jew.

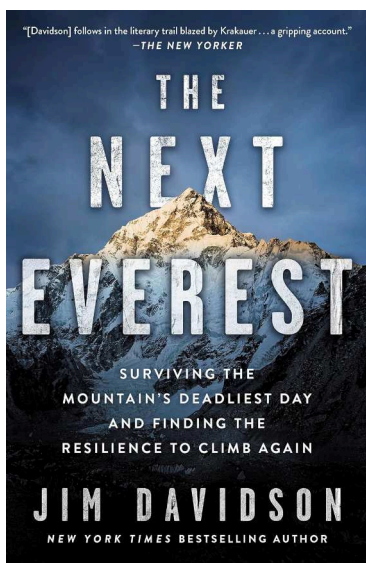
Having come full circle from prosperity to poverty and back, Nhi hopes to encourage others to believe that in spite of overwhelming odds, all things are possible if one has an intense desire, focused energy, and the audacity to grasp presented opportunities.



Several anthologies including *Kentucky Women: Two Centuries of Indomitable Spirit and Vision*, Colorado Public Radio (CPR), Harvey Brownstone Interviews (Canadian Show), and Lotus Network have profiled her harrowing journey as a child refugee who escaped war-torn Vietnam in search of the American Dream.

Wanting to make a positive difference in people's lives, Nhi has been a mediator and interpreter since her retirement from the mortgage industry.

For more about Nhi, see [www.NhiAronheim.com](http://www.NhiAronheim.com)



# THE NEXT EVEREST

Surviving the Mountain's Deadliest Day and  
Finding the Resilience to Climb Again

By Jim Davidson, NYT Bestselling Author

St. Martin's Press

100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the First Everest Expedition

"[Davidson] follows in the literary trail blazed by Krakauer... a gripping account." -The New Yorker

"There's more to this book than a disaster survival story... authentic, illuminating."—Outside

"Deft and honest....Davidson exorcises the demons of a tragedy decades in his past." --David Roberts, author of *The Mountain of My Fear* Harrowing."—Forbes

On April 25, 2015, Jim Davidson was climbing Mount Everest when a 7.8-magnitude earthquake released avalanches all around him and his team, destroying their only escape route and trapping them at nearly 20,000 feet. It was the largest earthquake in Nepal in eighty-one years and killed nearly 8,900 people. That day also became the deadliest in the history of Everest, with eighteen people losing their lives on the mountain.

After spending two unsettling days stranded on Everest, Davidson's team was rescued by helicopter. The experience left him shaken, and despite his thirty-three years of climbing and serving as an expedition leader, he wasn't sure that he would ever go back. But in the face of risk and uncertainty, he returned in 2017 and finally achieved his dream of reaching the summit.

Suspenseful and engrossing, **The Next Everest** portrays the experience of living through the biggest disaster to ever hit the mountain. Davidson's background in geology and environmental science makes him uniquely qualified to explain why the seismic threats lurking beneath Nepal are even greater today. But this story is not only about "conquering" the world's highest peak. Instead, it reveals how embracing change, challenge, and uncertainty prepares anyone to face their next "Everest" in life.

JIM DAVIDSON is an accomplished high-altitude climber, photographer, motivational speaker, and coauthor of the New York Times bestseller *The Ledge*. Along with his teammates, he has been commended twice by the U.S. National Park Service for volunteering on risky and remote mountain rescues. He has inspired audiences across the U.S. and overseas through his professional business, **Speaking of Adventure**. Davidson has two adventurous children and lives in Colorado with his very tolerant wife.

[SPEAKINGOFADVENTURE.COM](http://SPEAKINGOFADVENTURE.COM)



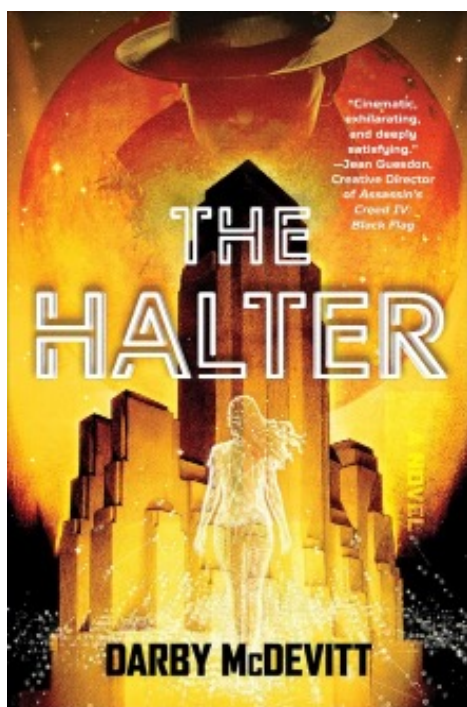
[THE NEXT EVEREST BY JIM DAVIDSON | ST. MARTIN'S PRESS | BOOK TRAILER](#)



[SURVIVING EVEREST'S DEADLIEST DAY: A CONVERSATION WITH JIM DAVIDSON -NPR RADIO](#)



# ADULT NOVELS



# THE HALTER

BY DARBY MCDEVITT

DIVERSION BOOKS, FEB. 2026

Combining the inventive world building of Philip K. Dick and the elegiac longing of Raymond Chandler's *The Long Goodbye* and for fans of *Ready Player One* and *Rabbits*, *The Halter* by Darby McDevitt (lead writer for *Assassin's Creed 4: Black Flag*) is a debut sci-fi novel that fuses cyber-noir, psychological suspense, and high-concept speculation in a breakneck search for truth inside a utopian metaverse on the verge of collapse.

In a world where virtual addiction kills, Kennedy Stark is paid to pull the plug. A professional halter-part detective, part counselor, he trawls the world's darkest surrogate-reality feeds in search of the lost. When he isn't working, he's dreaming of a one-way ticket to Mars, where a new colony has been established as a hopeful alternative to an Earth in the early stages of climate collapse.

One evening, after a botched rescue attempt, a mysterious client offers Kennedy a tantalizing new case: brilliant software engineer Delia Walsh, who Kennedy fell in love with years ago, has disappeared inside a surrogate reality project called *The Forum*. Entering under an assumed identity, Kennedy finds a simulation unlike any other. *The Forum* bills itself as a tool for cutting-edge scientific research and radical philosophical investigations, but the signs of its corruption are everywhere, having become a playground for the super wealthy, the dangers are very real.

*Assassin's Creed* developer Darby McDevitt shines in his sci-fi noir debut... McDevitt's Chandleresque Protagonist finds the path... challenging and hazardous, creating a gripping and twisting mystery for readers. Fans of *Nick Harkaway* will be riveted. ---Publishers Weekly

Darby McDevitt was raised in Spokane, Washington, and now lives in Montréal, where he continues his work for Ubisoft on the *Assassin's Creed* franchise. Currently, he is completing work on its next installment, the highly anticipated *Assassin's Creed: Hexe*.

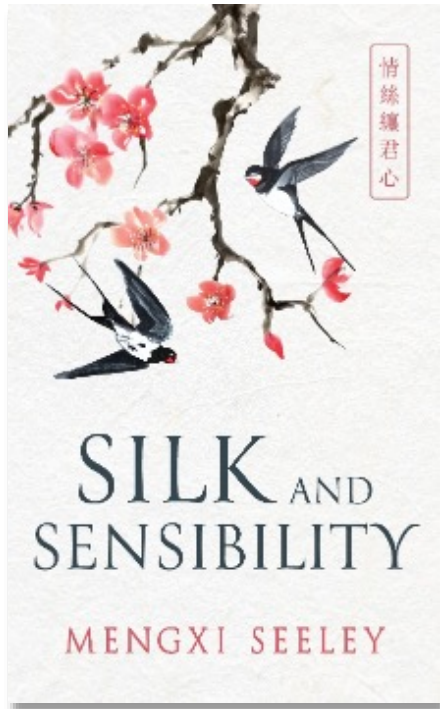


# SILK AND SENSIBILITY

By Mengxi Seeley

Proper Romance/Historical Fiction

Coming Fall 2026



A charming retelling of Jane Austen's *Sense and Sensibility* set in Ming-dynasty China. Two sisters with conflicting attitudes on passion and restraint must each choose between the traditions that bind their hearts and pursuing the love that could save them.

Nineteen-year-old Ailin is torn between duty and desire. Following her father's death, her family must rely on the wealthy Jiang clan for financial survival. Though Ailin knows she should marry strategically to help her family, her heart has already been captured by the poor but gentle scholar Enze. When his family opposes their union, Ailin knows she must hide her feelings until she can strengthen her dowry and stand on her own terms.

Meilin encourages her older sister to fight for her personal desires, but Meilin's romantic ideals conflict with Ailin's devotion to duty. Meilin believes in being honest about one's feelings regardless of what others may think, and she unabashedly pursues a charming playwright while also clashing with a frustratingly handsome but gruff army captain.

The sisters would do anything to help the other find happiness, but their assumptions about restraint and passion are as different as earth and sky. Ailin feels honor bound to her family yet is unable to deny her love for Enze, even as circumstances push them further apart, while Meilin grapples with unexpected feelings for Captain Bai and societal restrictions that leave little room for her own hopes.

*Silk and Sensibility* explores the delicate cultural expectations of womanhood in historical China by following two sisters who must learn to balance loyalty and longing, courage and constraint, to claim their own happiness.



Mengxi Seeley is a 1.5 generation immigrant born in China and raised in Utah. She has an MA in East Asian Studies from Stanford University and a BA in international relations from Brigham Young University. After working for many years as an academic translator, she now writes novels inspired by historical research, but with fantastically happy endings.

Mengxi is on the Diversity Committee for the 2026 Storymakers Conference, where she has taught as faculty. When not writing, she enjoys reading, gardening, running, and over-analyzing movies with her family. She lives in Virginia with two little princesses and an absent-minded professor. You can find out more about Mengxi and her upcoming book [www.mengxiseeley.com](http://www.mengxiseeley.com)

# ONCE THROUGH THE HEART



**A Dark Romantasy  
by Brooke Shaden**

Six-figure, Two-book deal, in a Pre-empt  
to Mira/HarperCollins

**Coming Summer 2027**

**When you're a vampire hunter, the most  
dangerous heart to stake is your own...**

Onyx Feller is the best damn vampire hunter at Bloodright Bureau, so when he's forced to work with Amaya Fucking Arles (who may or may not have a higher kill count than him), his day couldn't get worse. Until they fail their mission to take out the bloodthirsty Borderlanders, and his day becomes a historical disaster. Because instead of finding the Borderlanders, they find two abandoned vampire children instead.

Bloodright Bureau Guideline #8: Vampire children are to be killed on sight.

...Which is exactly what he's trying to do when Amaya gets between Onyx's crossbow and the little abomination snapping his fangs like a rabid raccoon. He needs to pull the trigger, but try as he might, he just...can't. Because one of the kids has tears in his eyes, and the other is looking up at him with a hopeful smile over her tiny little fangs.

Onyx and Amaya suddenly find themselves reluctant guardians to two small vampires, enemies of their agency, traitors to the city and wanted by every human and vampire around. Because these kids aren't just undead, they're necromancers, and everyone wants to murder them or exploit their power. Doves of citizens are dying in unprecedented attacks, and Onyx and Amaya can't stop it as the Borderlanders close in on them.

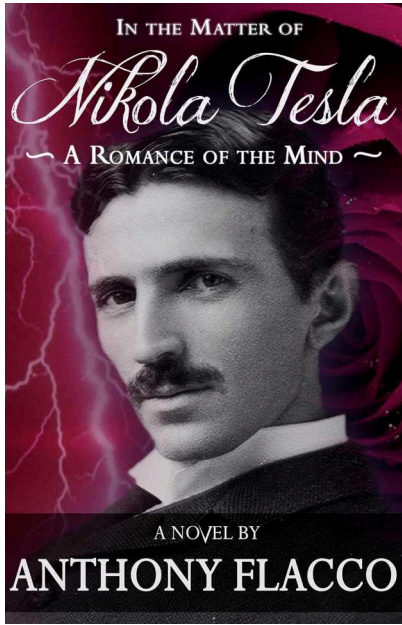
It isn't just Onyx's life falling apart, it's his entire system of beliefs as he confronts his morality, ideas of family, and his growing attraction to Amaya. How do you hold a family together when the world insists it shouldn't exist?

Take the found family and adopted supernatural children from *The House in the Cerulean Sea*, drop them into the blood-soaked human-versus-vampire chaos of *The Serpent* and the *Wings of the Night*, and you have *Once Through the Heart*. Inspired by the author's experience fostering six children between 2019 and 2023, *Once Through the Heart* reimagines the foster-care journey through a dark fantasy lens.

Brooke Shaden is an internationally awarded and influential artist focused on writing, photography, and motivational speaking. She specializes in dark, conceptual works that help to destigmatize grief. She is represented by brands like Sony and Microsoft, has her work in international galleries and museums and is followed by 1.2 million people online. Brooke was a foster mother from 2019-2023, and much of her art is inspired by the idea that we can love more deeply by learning how to let go.



See more here: <https://brookeshaden.com/>



# NIKOLA TESLA A ROMANCE OF THE MIND

Adapted from the Novel by Anthony Flacco, wga/w

**\* Full Treatment Available \***

This proposed six part limited dramatic historical series is told through the POV of mega-rich financier, J.P. MORGAN in following the life of the brilliant inventor Nikola Tesla. It is told through the eyes of those who work with him, work against him, spy on him, believe in him, and betray him.

The story follows a five-year timeline from 1899 to 1904. For Morgan, the Great Question is simple: what drives this revolutionary scientific genius -- and does the answer threaten Morgan's empire?

## WHY J.P. MORGAN?

These six episodes are told principally from Morgan's POV because he is the reason for the failure of Tesla's plan for Universal Free Energy. Morgan is the source of the blackball put on Tesla by Wall St. investors. Plainly put, J.P. Morgan single-handedly destroyed the career of Nikola Tesla.

But as the story will show, he had no other choice, given the information he possessed. Tesla wasn't dangerous because he was wrong; he was dangerous because he was right. If Morgan hadn't stopped Tesla, then for better or worse, there is no doubt the world would be much different today. And in Morgan's view that meant disaster, either from Tesla himself or from the people given his machines and tearing up the planet with their carelessness.

J.P. Morgan's museum-quality office is the lair of the 19<sup>th</sup> Century Alpha Male, with oversized Victorian furniture calculated to impress, intimidate. There he pulls in other people (Mark Twain, George Westinghouse, Tesla assistant George Scherff) to ask about Tesla and get their perception of the man. Morgan has massive investments at stake, perhaps entire industries, and he has to know whether or not to continue backing Tesla's experiments or cut him off and leave him dry. The stories these men tell are played out in Morgan's visionary imagination, while none of them agree on who this strange man is.

Each time one of them begins talking about Tesla, the narrative begins as seen from their POV, however the POV quickly switches to that of J.P. Morgan, while he visualizes what he is being told. HIS version never makes the speaker or the subject look very good. Everybody in Morgan's POV is always noticeably more unkempt in appearance and slow of speech.

## HERE'S HOW THE POV CHANGES ARE USED:

Author Mark Twain looks at Tesla and sees a beautiful genius doomed to be derailed by human stupidity. Tesla plays out exactly that way in Twain's POV.

But while Morgan listens to the famous author, the narrative switches to his POV and shows a decadent writer of trivial popular novels who is speaking up for a dangerously eccentric inventor.

George Westinghouse tells Morgan about his associations with Tesla. In financing the Niagara Falls power system for Tesla, using Morgan's money, he has come to see Tesla as an inventive man. But he sees Tesla's naivety as proving his genius to be overrated.

Of course, while Morgan listens, the narrative shifts to his POV and reveals that he regards Westinghouse as an uncultured “lucky winner” in business. In Morgan’s POV, Westinghouse is a rather unintelligent bore who can barely keep Tesla listening to him when he speaks. Morgan dismisses the worth of his responses, lights a cigar, and begins to sing an idle tune under his breath while Westinghouse drones on.

As for George Scherff, Tesla’s long-term assistant is so kind in his version of Tesla that Morgan accuses him of covering up for his boss. But Scherff persists in telling of a solitary genius who lives most of his life inside his head, where he entertains a “muse” who may be invisible, but who is real to him.

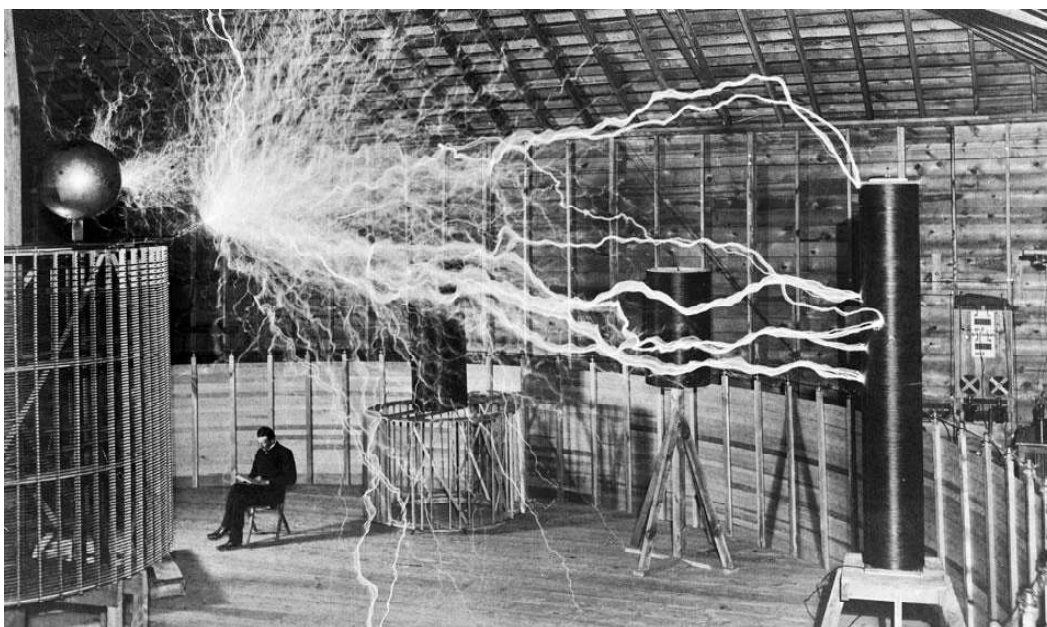
Scherff insists Tesla’s motives are pure. His POV shows Tesla as a passionate romantic with a vivid personal imagination. Scherff tells how he sometimes watches Tesla’s revels from the shadows, a guilty voyeur filled with admiration.

But while Morgan listens, his POV overlaps Scherff’s, and now both Scherff and Tesla come across as “a fool and his servant,” sloppily attired and slower of speech. Morgan sees what the genius cannot: the proposed World Power System would concentrate all broadcasting of electrical power as well as all forms of information to a handful of Tesla Towers around the globe. The commercial and military challenges to seize control of them would never end.

In this way we come to understand why the great J. Pierpont Morgan, more financially powerful than the United States government, will see to it that this man must be stopped. The fact that Nikola Tesla has already conceived, designed, and installed the first electrical generators at Niagara Falls doesn’t speak in his favor-- it proves he must be stopped.

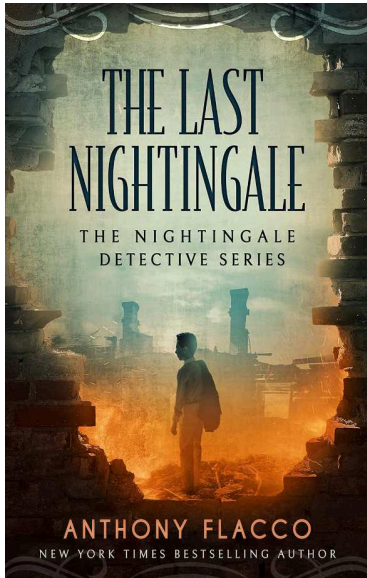
And so, although the Niagara Falls power station is a model for the world’s emerging power grid, Tesla will die in 1943 too poor to pay his own light bill.

According to J.P. Morgan, civilization dodged a bullet.



# THE LAST NIGHTINGALE

BY NYT & INTERNATIONAL BESTSELLING AUTHOR



## ANTHONY FLACCO

PART ONE OF 4-BOOK SERIES



**“Dickens meets Hannibal Lecter. Brace yourself.” -Booklist**

**Original Sunday NY Times review by Marilyn Stasio:** “Every historical mystery tries to home in on the ideal setting at the perfect moment in time. Anthony Flacco succeeds on both counts in his first novel, *THE LAST NIGHTINGALE*, which opens on April 18, 1906, at 5:12 a.m. — the exact second of the first shock wave of the great San Francisco earthquake. The heaving streets, the burning buildings, the screams of the victims: Flacco imagines the chaos in precise and vivid detail while contributing his own distinctive narrative touch. It seems the quake has provided cover for a serial killer, and while the city struggles to save itself, 12-year-old Shane Nightingale is more intent on finding the madman who murdered his family. Once Shane crosses paths with Sgt. Randall Blackburn, who has also made it his business to catch the killer known as “the Surgeon,” man and boy discover that they make an unorthodox but efficient team. And who knows — once they overcome fire, pestilence, lawlessness and the other legacies of the earthquake to vanquish this monster, there could be more work for such a dynamic duo.”

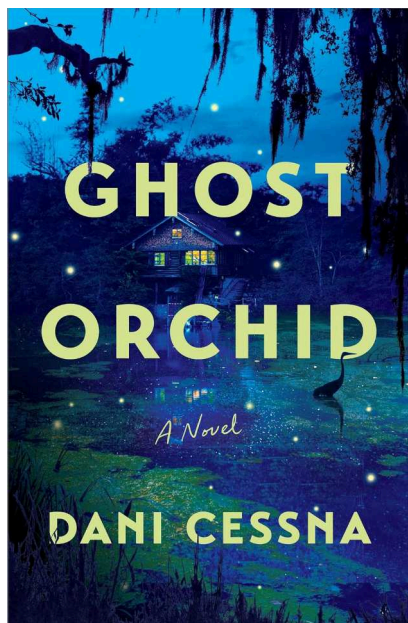
**The Historical Fiction Company series review:** “This series is fast-paced and action packed, somewhat in the style of old-fashioned weekly radio detective dramas or Saturday morning trips to the local cinema. There are a whole series of heart stopping and cliff hanging moments.”



[www.AnthonyFlacco.com](http://www.AnthonyFlacco.com)

Author **Anthony Flacco** is a New York Times and International Bestselling author who draws upon his experience as an award-winning screenwriter, AFI Screenwriting MFA graduate, and Disney Screenwriting Fellowship winner. He is the author of a dozen books, all with major publishers, and was optioned for the screen by Malpaso Productions for the book he wrote, *Impossible Odds: The Kidnapping of Jessica Buchanan and Her Dramatic Rescue by SEAL Team Six*.

Check out these two **15-second** character videos:  
<https://www.bookcandystudios.com/bcp-anthonyflacco>



# GHOST ORCHID

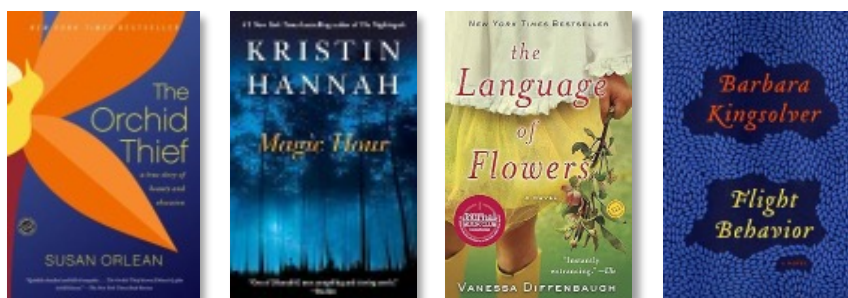
By Dani Cessna

Amazon/Lake Union, **Fall 2026**

For fans of *The Orchid Thief*, a novel steeped in meticulous detail and lore about the fascinating botanic subculture of the Everglades.

Deep in the swamps, a young park ranger's friendship with a reclusive old woman who's rumored to be a witch reveals long-hidden—and highly-sought-after—secrets of the legendary ghost orchid, believed to have the power to bring people back from the dead.

## COMPARABLE TITLES



Grieving the loss of her best friend, twenty-six-year-old park ranger Miranda Thomas drifts into a reckless relationship with Clay, who lures her deep into the Everglades to trespass on the property of a rumored witch. When Miranda returns to make amends, she begins a deep and meaningful friendship with the reclusive old woman, Estelle, who teaches Miranda the strange language of plants—and the mystical secret of the ghost orchid said to raise the dead. Miranda soon realizes that many people want the information she now possesses—and will go to great lengths to get it.

Dubbed the “real-life Lara Croft” by [Inside Hook](#), Dani Cessna was born and raised in the wilds of Pennsylvania and grew up roaming the woods. A park ranger for thirteen years, she has lived in five states and worked at five different parks. Those experiences, along with a drive to bring diversity and inclusivity to wilderness stories, helps shape her fiction. Dani is very active online through her [website](#) and on X.



# FAREWELL, CAMELOT

By M.B. Henry

Severn House, 2026

**GENRE:** HISTORICAL FICTION, BOOK CLUB FICTION

A privileged young woman who's enchanted with the Kennedys comes of age in 1960s Texas.

"An author to follow."—Heather Morris,  
#1 New York Times-bestselling author of *The Tattooist of Auschwitz*

## COMPARABLE TITLES



**Dallas, 1963. A young woman on the edge of change. A nation on the brink of history.**

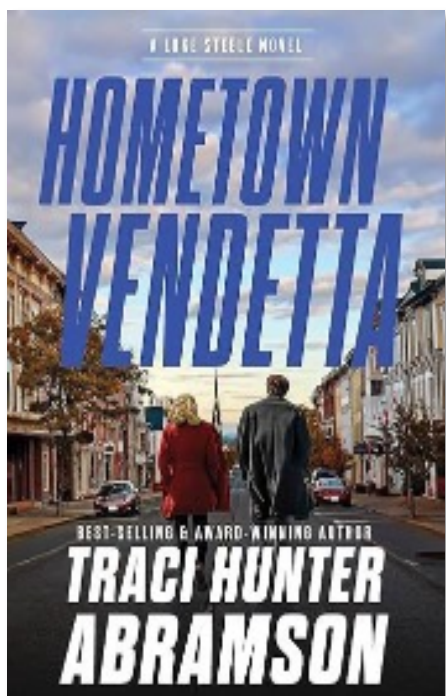
Jolene has always lived in the shadow of privilege—her father's wealth, his rigid politics, his vision for her future. But as the bright promise of the Kennedy era collides with the turbulence of the 1960s, she's drawn into a world her family cannot control: College protests, forbidden ambitions, and a shattering secret leave Jolene fighting for her independence in a society that wants her silent.

Then, on a crisp November morning in 1963, fate places her at the heart of a moment that will alter America forever: standing in Dealey Plaza as President Kennedy's motorcade rolls past.

**A sweeping story of rebellion, resilience, and reckoning—where personal choices collide with the turning points of history.**



Henry is a lifelong student of history, especially military history, having visited battlefields and historical sites all over the world. She has a degree in Cinema and Comparative Literature and has served as a historical consultant and researcher films and television in Los Angeles. She also gets involved in comedic community theater. She lives with her husband and three cats in Indiana more on her published works or history blog, you may visit her website at [www.mb-henry.com](http://www.mb-henry.com)



# HOMETOWN VENDETTA

(A LUKE STEELE NOVEL)

BY TRACI HUNTER ABRAMSON

Thriller/Suspense with a touch of Romance

Shadow Mountain 2024

“Abramson kicks her new series off with a bang!”  
-Booklist, Starred Review

“Small-town secrets, hatreds, and vengeance ... A skillfully done thriller with a dash of romance, lots of action...”  
-Library Journal

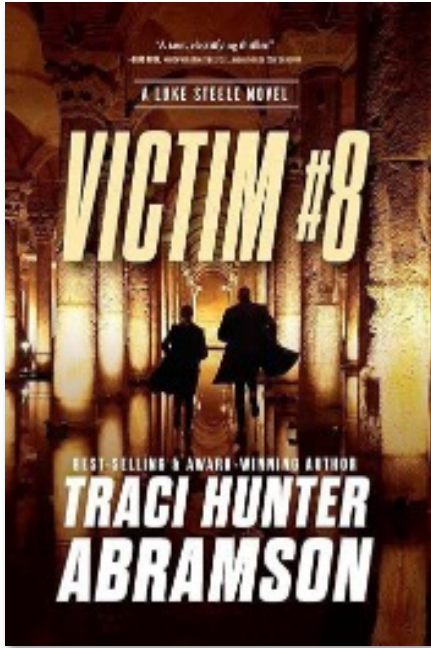
When a terrorist attack grips the nation, Luke Steele, a military aide to the president of the United States, is reassigned to track down the suspect because the alleged bomber was spotted wearing a state championship ring from Luke’s hometown. Luke has desperately tried to forget his high school years, but he can’t run from them now. Instead, he must face his most formidable assignment yet: leave his post by the president’s side, return to Pine Falls, Virginia, and face every demon from his childhood—including every person and every thought that told him he wasn’t worth anything.

FBI Special Agent Amberlyn Reiner has spent years tracking domestic terrorism. When she catches a break that could pinpoint the key player in the antigovernment group responsible for dozens of needless deaths, she’s willing to do whatever it takes to get the information she seeks—even if it means going undercover as Luke Steele’s plus-one at his high school reunion. Though Amberlyn found Luke arrogant and aloof during their time together at Quantico, it doesn’t take long for her to discover that there’s much more to him than she realized. But even as the line between fact and fiction in their relationship blurs, the countdown to danger accelerates. Time is running out, and with the threat of another terrorist attack looming, the stakes are higher than ever.

Traci has many film and television rights (perfect for scripted series) available for her many books and series. You can find a list of these available rights at: [LINK](#)

Traci Hunter Abramson is an award-winning and best-selling author in suspense, espionage, action/adventure, and romance genres. She was born in Arizona, where she lived until moving to Venezuela for a study abroad program. After graduating from Brigham Young University, she worked for the **Central Intelligence Agency**, eventually resigning in order to raise her family. She credits the CIA with giving her a wealth of ideas as well as the skills needed to survive her children’s teenage years. She loves to travel and recently retired after twenty-six years coaching her local high school swim team. She has written over forty-five best-selling novels and is an eight-time Whitney Award winner, including 2017 and 2019 Best Novel of the Year and a Lifetime Achievement Award in 2024. You can find out more about Traci and her books at [www.traciabramson.com](http://www.traciabramson.com).





# VICTIM #8

(A LUKE STEELE NOVEL)

**BY TRACI HUNTER ABRAMSON**

Thriller/Suspense with a touch of Romance

**Shadow Mountain 2025**

“A taut, electrifying thriller.”

-BRAD THOR, 1 NEW YORK TIMES BEST-SELLING  
AUTHOR OF EDGE OF HONOR

**Military aide Luke Steele and FBI Special Agent Amberlyn Reiner go undercover once again to unravel a string of murders that may be tied to a nuclear threat capable of igniting a war.**

Military aide Luke Steele grapples with self-doubt after a tragic loss during his last mission. But when a trusted American journalist is killed in Istanbul, Luke must push past his grief to prepare for a new assignment.

The Turkish police report the journalist as the eighth victim of a serial killer. But US intelligence considers the suspicious death a murder at the hands of an international threat and fear that the journalist could have had top-secret information that is now in the hands of an enemy of the United States.

The president tasks Luke to join with FBI Special Agent Amberlyn Reiner to investigate. As the two delve into the cause of the journalist's death, they unravel a conspiracy that reveals a chilling plan for the assassination of the president and a potential nuclear strike on the United States.

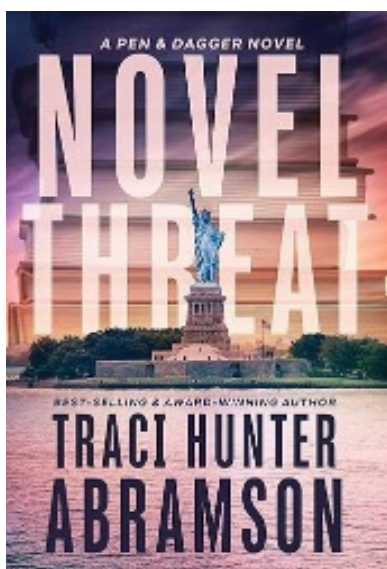
Going undercover as a couple, Luke and Amberlyn travel to Istanbul to connect with a Russian source who holds key information to the case—if they can find him in time.

In the crucible of danger, Luke must rediscover his confidence and trust the bond he has forged with Amberlyn as they fight to save the president of the United States and stop a perilous nuclear plot poised to kill millions.

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# NOVEL THREAT

## BY TRACI HUNTER ABRAMSON

Thriller/Suspense with a touch of Romance

Shadow Mountain 2025

“Abramson smoothly blends espionage and romance tropes in this breezy thriller centered on two CIA agents who infiltrate a mysterious publishing house . . . This is pure popcorn.”

-Publishers Weekly

“Readers will stay up past midnight to discover if Kimber and Brandon can prevent the attacks and stay alive long enough to see where their relationship is heading.” -Booklist

In a world of covert codes, two CIA operatives must infiltrate a New York publishing house, where every word on the page could be a weapon.

Brandon Hale, a seasoned CIA case officer, contemplates leaving the covert world of espionage behind to embark on a quieter path in publishing. But his plan takes an abrupt turn when a critical source within the Labyrinth terrorist organization is assassinated, leaving behind a cryptic message about a New York publishing house. Rather than submitting his resignation, Brandon finds himself going undercover at Monroe Publishing to stop the next terrorist strike against the US.

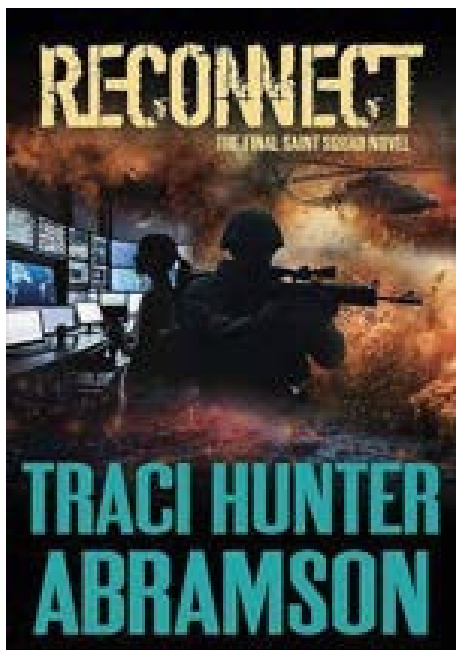
Kimber Seidel, a CIA finance officer with secret aspirations of becoming a novelist, enjoys a serendipitous encounter with a handsome book lover like herself on her way home from London. Though she cannot reveal her true employment to her new friend, Brandon Hale, she can't deny the instant spark that ignites between them. When Kimber's manuscript is unexpectedly shopped to Monroe Publishing as a pawn in the CIA's counterterrorism plot, Kimber must navigate the intersection of her literary dreams and her covert life as well as her deepening connection with Brandon.

Though each decoded message is leading Brandon and Kimber closer to the truth, it is also leading them into the line of fire, where the stakes are higher than anyone ever imagined.

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# RECONNECT

BY TRACI HUNTER ABRAMSON

COVENANT, FEBRUARY 2025

ROMANTIC SUSPENSE  
&  
ACTION ADVENTURE

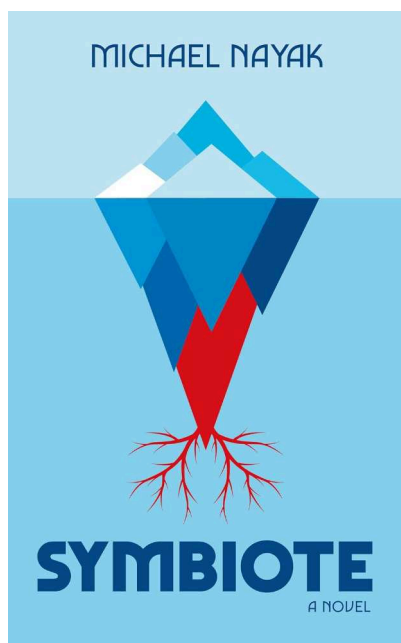
Deep in the jungles of Nicaragua, the members of the Saint Squad were faced with an impossible decision: neutralize the threat to national security or ensure that all their team members walked out alive. Choosing his safety over the country's was a risk Brent wasn't willing to take. He ran headlong into danger to save the nation and did not come back with his team . . .

Amy Miller watched the video feed as her husband disappeared in a furious explosion. Even so, without hard evidence to the contrary, she refuses to believe Brent is dead. She and the rest of the Saint Squad fight to launch a rescue mission to recover him even as they battle the threat against the United States. The clock is ticking, and the Saint Squad must face their enemy head-on to thwart a plan that spells imminent devastation. And this time, there can be no mistakes.

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# SYMBIOTE

BY MICHAEL NAYAK

ANGRY ROBOT, FEB. 2025

Contagion meets *The Walking Dead* in this new sci-fi thriller where a biological threat ravages scientists and military personnel at the South Pole.

As World War III rages, the scientists in Antarctica are thankful for the isolation – until a group of Chinese scientists arrive at the American research base. In their truck is a dead body, the first murder in Antarctica. The potential for a geopolitical firestorm is great, and, with no clear jurisdiction, the Americans don't know what to do. But they soon realize the Chinese scientists have brought far more with them than the body...

Within seventy-two hours, thirteen others lie dead in the snow, murdered in acts of madness and superhuman strength. An extremophile parasite from the truck, triggered by severe cold, is spreading by touch. It is learning from them. evolving. It triggers violent tendencies in the winter crew, and, more insidiously, the beginnings of a strange symbiotic telepathy.

Exhausted by suspicion and fear, with rescue impossible for months, the desperate crew members turn on each other. A small group of survivors try to resist the siren call of the growing hive mind and stay alive long enough to solve the mystery of the symbiotic microbe's origins. But the symbiote is more than a disease – it is a biological weapon that can change the balance of power in a time of war.

The survivors cannot let anyone infected make it to the summer season, when planes will arrive to take them--and potentially the symbiote – back to civilization.

*“The best science fiction novels to look forward to in 2025” -New Scientist*

*“Compulsively readable and utterly chilling ... Highly recommended for readers of sci-fi thrillers, cli-fi, and bioterrorism thrillers and Tom Clancy fans who enjoy a bit of SF in their political thriller.” Starred Review—Library Journal*

*Readers looking for thrills and thrills alone will find plenty of them here.” – Publishers Weekly*

*“Fantastic...A sci-fi thriller in the vein of Michael Crichton and Tom Clancy!” – Book Riot*

*“Throughout Symbiote, the imaginative and beautifully descriptive language Nayak employs ensures you feel the tension... This is a fast-paced horror set at the extremes of the human condition, which will grab you by the throat and drag you along for the ride.” – Grim Dark Magazine*

By day, Michael (or Mikey, as everyone calls him) is Doctor/Major Nayak award winning scientist, engineer, pilot, and military icer who deployed to the South Pole as a National Science Foundation Principal Investigator in November 2018. He now lives in Washington, DC and works for DARPA. Like many thriller authors, Michael has prior real-world espionage and intelligence experience, adding authentic details and a touch of hyper-realism to his work.

WWW.MICHAELNAYAK.COM



# THE SISTER SOCIETY

BY MELANIE DOBSON Kensington, Fall 2026

Genre: Historical Fiction, Time-slip Fiction, Book club Fiction

Clara and Mr. Tiffany meets *The 19<sup>th</sup> Wife* in this gripping historical novel inspired by true events about the lives of the women born into the secretive religious cult that launched the **Oneida silverware empire**.

## COMPARABLE TITLES



**Manhattan, 1945.** As successful advertising executive ELLIE WINSLIP (based on real-life adwoman [Jean Wade Rindlaub](#)) promotes marital perfection for Oneida's Community Plate, she secretly longs for love. Ellie was raised by DANIKA, her pious grandmother, and she is devastated when her grandmother dies.

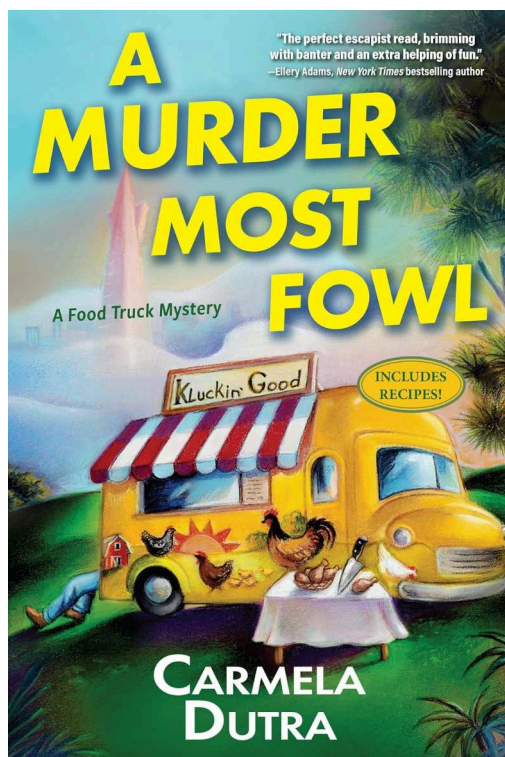
A STRANGER attends Danika's funeral, and his story begins to complicate all that Ellie thought true about her family. When she discovers that her grandmother left a significant sum to this stranger, Ellie and JOSIAH—a childhood friend who recently returned from World War II—work together to unravel the complicated threads of the original Oneida Community.

Josiah and Ellie discover a history quite different from the happily married couples that she touts in magazines. Oneida, they find, was a community where girls were required to accept JOHN NOYES, the Perfectionist leader, as their god, father, and first husband. A religious family where marriage was forbidden and "sticky love" for a parent, child, or lover was considered a sin.

Ellie finds that amid her grandmother's confusion and desire to remain devout, Danika had formed a sisterhood that almost nothing could break. After growing doubts about their leader, the Oneida sisters—RAE, MAISY, ANNABEL, and Danika—swear to keep their shameful past a secret from the outside world. But seventy years later, as the stories of their society unfolds, the truth changes everything for Ellie.



The award-winning author of almost thirty novels, Melanie Dobson enjoys stitching together both historical and split-time stories, including *Catching the Wind*, which received a starred review in *Publishers Weekly* and won the Audie Award for inspirational fiction in 2018, and *Winter Rose*, which received a starred review in *Library Journal*. Five of her novels have won the Carol Award. When she's not writing, Melanie enjoys traveling with her family and teaching as an adjunct professor in the Pacific Northwest. For more information, visit [melaniedobson.com](http://melaniedobson.com)



# A MURDER MOST FOWL

## BY CARMELA DUTRA

CROOKED LANE, 2025

Genre: Cozy Mystery, Amateur Sleuth, Humorous Fiction

The first in the deliciously charming  
“Food Truck Cozy Mysteries” series.

“A Serious set of crimes leavened by plenty of amusing moments add up to a fun read.”-Kirkus

“The perfect escapist read, brimming with banter and an extra helping of fun.”-Ellery Adams, NYT bestselling author of “The Secret, Book, and Scone Society mysteries

Set against the backdrop of a cooking reality TV competition, *A Murder Most Fowl* is full of sparkling humor, entertaining characters, tasty recipes... and a side of murder...

**Owning your own food truck is killer work...** When twins Beth and Seth Lloyd inherited a food truck from their late-aunt Dolly, Beth knew being her own boss would be challenging. But it wasn't until she signed up their truck, Kluckin' Good, to compete on the Cooking Channel's top show, *The Food Truck Showdown*, that she learned just how many speed bumps they would face.

Unfortunately, the Lloyd twins get more than they bargained for when the competition goes from heated to lethal as the elimination round takes on a literal meaning, and a contestant is found dead. Beth, Seth, and their friend Rylie, follow the breadcrumbs and become entangled in a twisted case that could put one of them next on the chopping block.

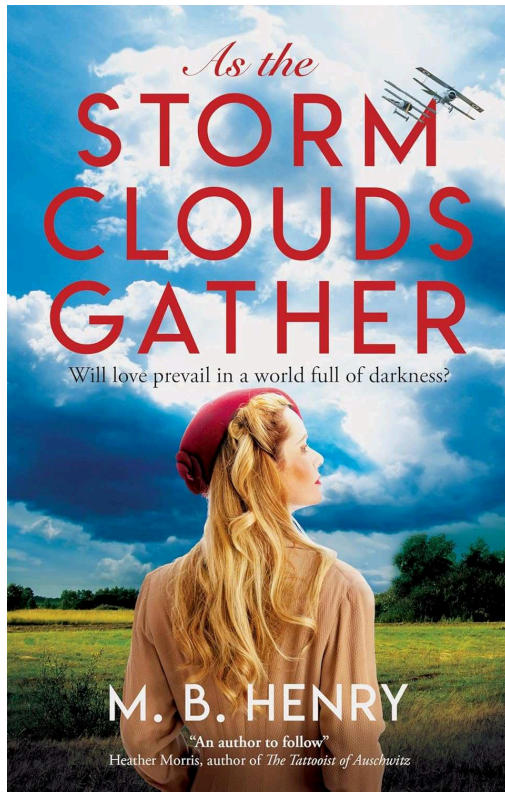
### COMPARABLE TITLES



Hailing from the Bay Area, Carmela Dutra cherishes her family, rainy days, and making others laugh. After years of working on her award-winning indie children's picture books, she transitioned to crafting cozy mysteries filled with emotion, humor, and heart. She's very active on her [website](#), [X/Twitter](#), (3.9K followers), and [Instagram](#) (11.4K followers).



[Cooking the Books: Murder Most Fowl by Carmela Dutra - Criminal Element](#)



# AS THE STORM CLOUDS GATHER

BY M.B. HENRY

SEVERN HOUSE, 2025

**“An author to follow.”—Heather Morris,  
#1 New York Times-bestselling author of *The  
Tattooist of Auschwitz***

**“A poignant, riveting tale that will enthrall readers  
from the first page to the last.”—Booklist**

**An emotionally gripping and heartbreaking WW1  
novel. Perfect for fans of: *The Tattooist of Auschwitz*,  
*The Nightingale*, and *The Midwife of Berlin*.**

## In a world full of darkness, can love prevail?

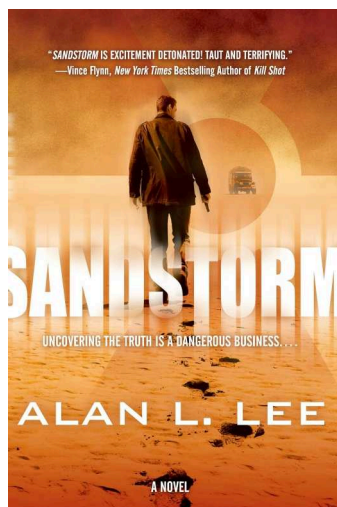
May 1915. Nineteen-year-old German American Ilse Stahl experiences the tragedy of war firsthand when the RMS Lusitania is attacked by a German U-boat off the coast of Ireland, killing more than a thousand passengers, including her parents. Somehow, she survives and conceals her German heritage to become a nurse on the front line in Ypres, Belgium.

In New York City, young Roland Hawkins loses his father in the notorious Black Tom explosion. Impatient and full of anger, he journeys to England to enlist and is soon in the trenches in Ypres, seeking revenge.

As the world is torn apart by war, Ilse and Roland are tested in unexpected and harrowing ways. But when their worlds collide, they are also transformed by the unlikely bond they find with each other. Is the love that blossoms between them strong enough to survive the darkest days that lie ahead?



Henry is a lifelong student of history, especially military history, having visited battlefields and historical sites all over the world. She has a degree in Cinema and Comparative Literature and has served as a historical consultant and researcher films and television in Los Angeles. She also gets involved in comedic community theater. She lives with her husband and three cats in Indiana more on her published works or history blog, you may visit her website at [www.mb-henry.com](http://www.mb-henry.com)



# SANDSTORM: A NOVEL

By Alan Lee

TOR / ST. MARTIN'S PRESS

Lurking in the shadows, away from any government oversight, a secret partnership has been formed between an exclusive billionaire boys club, rogue elements of Israel's famed Mossad intelligence unit and a prominent U.S. senator. They aim to change the world order by toppling the Iranian regime, bringing a halt to its nuclear program in the process by any means necessary. Success means lining their pockets with vast wealth and increased power.

CIA operative Nora Mossa is trained to kill when the situation calls for it. She's also capable of disappearing into thin air. Being efficient, deadly and beautiful however, won't be enough to stay alive after her mentor Erica Janway is assassinated at her Annapolis, Maryland home.

Warned by Janway that an unsanctioned covert operation was underway, Nora is forced to run after an attempt is made on her life in Rome. Unsure whether she can trust anyone at the Agency, Nora turns to the only person she feels is capable of keeping her alive while uncovering the truth behind Janway's demise. The problem is, her former lover Alex Koves made it clear years ago that he never wanted to see or have contact with her again.

Once considered a golden boy at the CIA, Alex is living a comfortable life in sunny St. Thomas. Rugged, charming and lethal when need be, Alex seems content in maintaining his quiet existence by the ocean. When Nora shows up to ask for his help, he has no intention of lending a hand. Feeling he couldn't live with himself if something happened to her, Alex has a change of heart and joins Nora in her quest to discover who is responsible for Janway's death. Their investigation takes them across the globe where they piece together clues that reveal a deadly plot capable of killing thousands in a Chernobyl-like mishap.

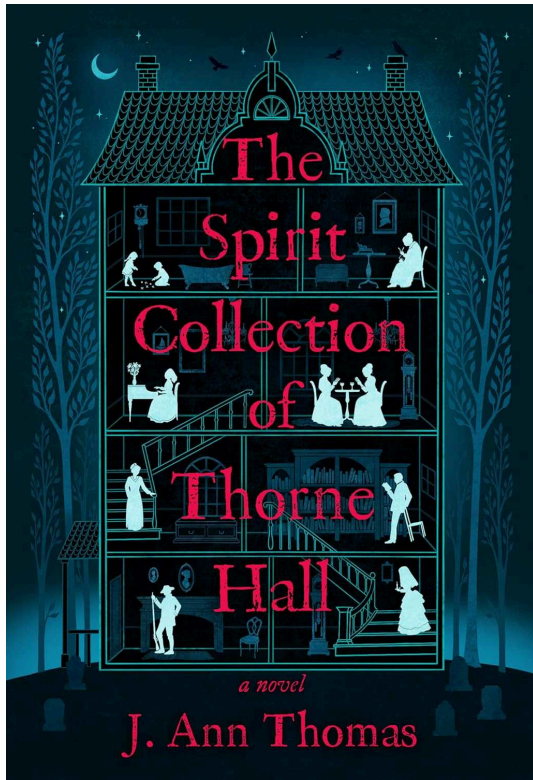
Rushing from the U.S. through Europe to the Middle East, *Sandstorm* is a fast-paced, complex thriller in the style of Brad Thor and Vince Flynn. With a well-drawn female character and her larger-than-life partner, author Alan Lee has crafted a captivating, contemporary tale of international intrigue.



[ALANLEE.COM](http://ALANLEE.COM)

**About the author:** First time novelist Alan Lee is the Morning Anchor at Detroit's Fox station, WJBK-TV. Alan has helped build Fox 2 News Morning into a ratings juggernaut by combining his signature blend of seasoned journalism with an uncanny knack for making every guest, from politicians to entertainers, feel welcome and at ease. Alan has particularly enjoyed interviewing the best-selling authors who make it a point to visit Fox 2 during the Detroit legs of their book tours, and several have promised blurbs.

Prior to Detroit, Alan accepted a newly created co-anchor position on the morning show of Washington, D.C.'s NBC station, WRC-TV. In addition to sharing the hallways with journalism legends like Robert Hager, Andrea Mitchell and Tim Russert, Alan had the privilege of covering the storied Washington newsbeats of the White House, the Pentagon and the CIA. It was here Alan's burning lifelong interest in espionage truly caught fire, and where the first seeds of *Sandstorm* began to germinate. Alan is also an experienced blogger, regularly creating posts on his other passion in life, sports, and on his blog writing. Both *The Sporting Life* and *The Day of the Writer* will be yet additional vehicles to help market *Sandstorm*. Alan resides in Southern California with his wife, their two sons and their two dogs.



# THE SPIRIT COLLECTION OF THORNE HALL

By Jamie Thomas  
Alcove Press, 2025

*Audio Rights sold to Dreamscape in auction!*

A chilling gothic romance for fans of Mike Flannigan's many Netflix hits such as *The Haunting of Bly Manor*

An isolated young woman lives a life 100 years out of step with the world outside her family's haunted New England mansion in this contemporary gothic tale of chilling ghosts and swoon-worthy romance.

For more than a hundred years, the Thorne family has lived in splendor and isolation in their New England manor, devoting their lives to pacifying the fourteen spirits cursed to dwell there. Now, with her father on his deathbed, 25-year-old Elegy Thorne is about to inherit the Spirit Collection despite her terrifying inability to control them.

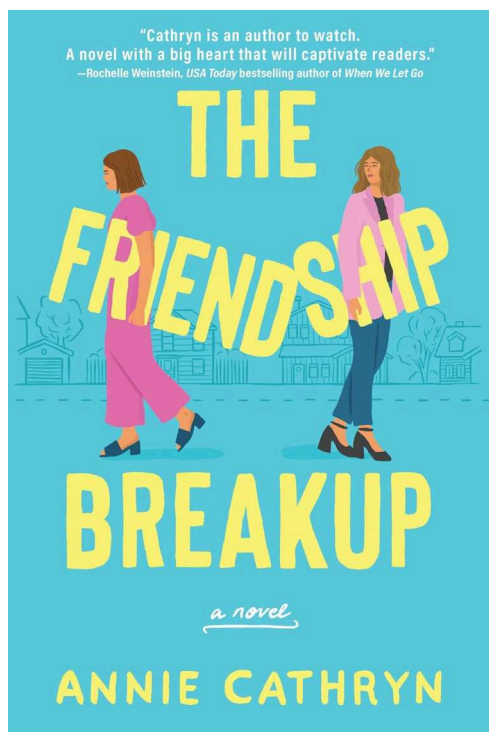
Timid but headstrong, Elegy lives, speaks, and dresses one hundred years behind the world around her. She must keep the house and everything inside as near as possible to America's Gilded Age when the spirits were summoned, lest they erupt in violence. She is resigned to live this nightmarish existence forever until—for the first time in her life—she falls in love with a young man who is helping restore a damaged part of the mansion.

As Elegy's secret romance blossoms, she slowly comes to recognize her own strength and agency despite a traumatic upbringing amid the literal ghosts of the past, until at last she confronts and breaks free of the grief that has held her family hostage for generations.

Moments of charming fish-out-of-water humor are woven into this gripping and occasionally terrifying haunted house story of the transformative power of romantic love.



Jamie's debut novel *ASPERFELL* (Uproar Books, 2020) earned the gold medal for Fantasy at the INDIES Awards and was named among Booklist's top ten debut speculative fiction novels of the year, among other accolades. A certified Language Arts teacher in the state of Washington, Jamie holds a master's degree in English education and did her graduate research in the area of gender equality in high school literary curriculum. She's also a classically trained opera singer and lives in Spokane with her husband, daughter, two enormous dogs, and two mischievous cats.



# THE FRIENDSHIP BREAKUP

By Annie Cathryn Alcove Press

“Cathryn’s charming and thought-provoking debut may be billed as a ‘mom-com,’ but one need not be a mom to appreciate it. A sure bet for fans of Jennifer Weiner.”

—**Library Journal**

“This novel will be popular with readers who find themselves navigating life in a way no one prepared them for. Funny, endearing, and sincere.” — **Booklist**

“In this warm and witty story, Annie Cathryn paints a portrait of a woman who must let go of her preconceived notions of what her life should be like in order to find out who she really is—and become her own best friend.”

—**Camille Pagán, national bestselling author of I’m Fine and Neither Are You**

A suburban “mom-com” pitched as **BAD MOMS** meets **MEAN GIRLS**, in which a mom is suddenly ghosted from the Neighborhood mom group and she’s both determined to find out why and get back in their good graces.

**On the eve of turning forty, aren’t you supposed to have it all figured out?**

Fallon Monroe, premenopausal mama bear of one, self-help book junkie, and budding chocolatier, has always relied on her neighborhood mom friends to get her through the trials of motherhood, because failing together is what makes failing tolerable. So, when her bestie, Beatrice, inexplicably begins ghosting her and takes all their mutual friends with her, Fallon’s left wondering how everything went so wrong. Pushing down a lifetime of insecurities, Fallon doubles down on her can-do attitude and decides to win them back.

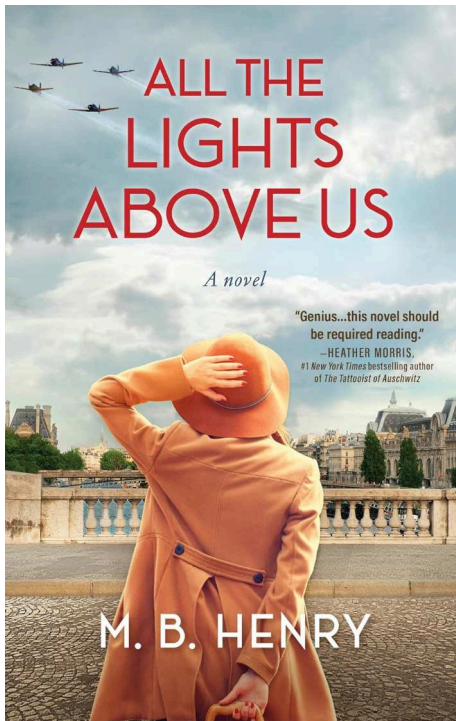
She hosts an epic Cinco de Mayo party that goes swimmingly, and she’s on her way back into her friends’ good graces ... until a stripper—who no one fesses up to ordering—literally crashes the party, sending several guests to the hospital and straight out of Fallon’s life. Suddenly she’s more alone than ever.

After failing in her attempts to win back her friends, she joins a friendship app to prove to everyone, especially herself, that she is a good friend. When she discovers one of her new friends is in a relationship with Beatrice’s soon-to-be ex-husband, Fallon must decide where her loyalties lie.

And just when she’s about to throw in the dirty towel on the whole friendship mess, she reads a recently-unearthed letter that she had stubbornly refused to open decades earlier. Reading it forces her to finally face the deep-seated fears that she’s desperately tried—and failed—to bury. Now looking at her friendships with fresh eyes, she must decide between hanging on or letting go.

**Annie Cathryn** is an avid reader, blogger, marketer, and **Bookstagrammer**, with 12.9K+ followers on Instagram. She is the host of IGTV’s **Soulful Series Video Chats**, featuring award-winning and bestselling authors. The series won a 2021 **Dotcom For** more than two decades, Annie has worked in marketing communications; first for a Fortune 500 company, before starting a **marketing consulting agency** where she provides marketing and PR for new and established brands. Annie has a degree in journalism and Masters in communications from Marquette University. She is an active contributor to the **Revision Division** newsletter, has written for Zibby Owens’s blog **Moms Don’t Have Time to Write**, and is a member of the Women’s Fiction Writers Association and the Chicago Writers Association. She lives with her husband and daughter outside of Chicago. [anniecathryn.com](http://anniecathryn.com)





# ALL THE LIGHTS ABOVE US

By M.B. Henry

Alcove Press 2022

## Inspired by the Women of D-Day

*"The talent and skills M.B. Henry has shown in her debut novel rate her as an author to follow. Her ability to express different voices of women, under different circumstances, at the same period in history is extraordinary. Telling the story of D-Day through the lives of five women, genius. History will be remembered - inclusive of the military and civilians, as it should be. Embrace these five amazing women who represent the millions of unknown. Do not judge them. This novel should be required reading or young students to remember that day - D-Day. I highly recommend it to readers of all ages and genders."*  
 -Heather Morris, #1 New York Times bestselling author of *The Tattooist of Auschwitz*

*"Everyone's going to read **All the Lights Above Us**. People are going to fall in love with it exactly the way I did. Character by character. I mean there's such emotion in this book. And it's WWII like you've never thought of it before. And D-Day like you've never thought of it before. And I think M.B. chose one of the most haunting days in American history to write about. But she did it with these five women. Each one different. Different facets of this whole conflict."* -Adriana Trigiani, *New York Times Bestselling Author*

Female-led World War II fiction, in the spirit of Dunkirk and 1917, that follows the lives of five very different women as D-Day unfolds. There are forbidden romances, treasonous alliances, painful losses, and mother/daughter conflicts, all against the backdrop of one of history's most critical days.

The story interweaves between:

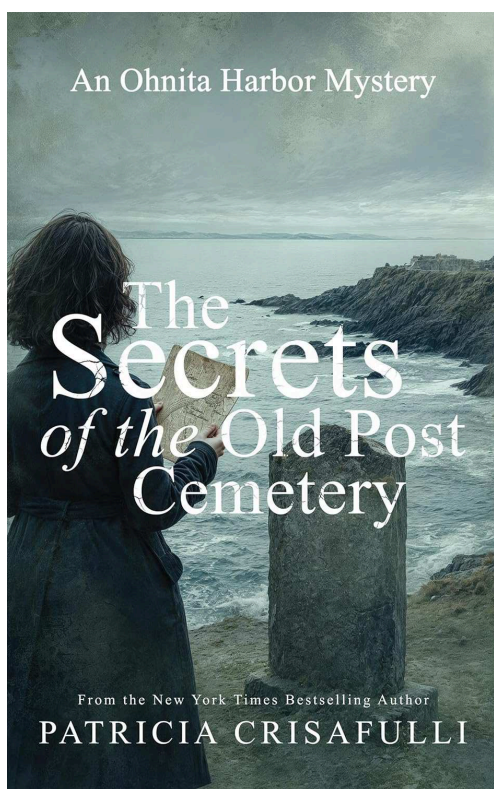
- MILDRED**, an American radio star living in Berlin (based on the historical figure "Axis Sally," the first woman in the US convicted of treason)
- FLORA**, a member of the French Resistance
- THEDA**, a British medical volunteer in Portsmouth, a town just off the English Channel
- ADELAIDE**, a woman desperate to reach her daughter in the French countryside
- EMILIA**, a worker at the Caen Gestapo headquarters.

As the clock strikes midnight on June 6, each woman's life shifts on its axis. When the world's largest military invasion arrives on the French coast, they face difficult (and deadly) choices about duty, sacrifice, and identity. In the most intense twenty-four hours of their lives, all five women summon unknown strength and make impossible decisions.



Henry is a lifelong student of history, especially military history, having visited battlefields and historical sites all over the world. She has a degree in Cinema and Comparative Literature and has served as a historical consultant and researcher films and television in Los Angeles. She also gets involved in comedic community theater. She lives with her husband and three cats in Indiana. More on her published works or history blog, you may visit her website at

[www.mb-henry.com](http://www.mb-henry.com)



## THE SECRETS OF THE OLD POST CEMETERY

By Patricia Crisafulli

Woodhall press

The much-anticipated third book in the Ohnita Harbor Mystery Series



*A riveting story with emotional complexity — exploring love, betrayal, murder and a chance for redemption.*

Fans of TV's *Murder, She Wrote* and the Nancy Drew mysteries will find a new home in Ohnita Harbor, New York. The Ohnita Harbor Mystery Series bring to life a Great Lakes port city with three centuries of history, quirky modern-day characters, intriguing artifacts, and an engaging protagonist—librarian and authenticator Gabriela Domenici. The third book in the series, *The Secrets of the Old Post Cemetery*, brings to life yet another treasure—this time, the Revolutionary War-era Traitor's Map that holds the clues to a modern-day murder. Written as a standalone, this third book in the series heightens the drama and intrigue that fans have come to expect from New York Times bestselling author Patricia Crisafulli and her first two novels: *The Secrets of Ohnita Harbor* and *The Secrets of Still Waters Chasm* (all from Woodhall Press).

Patricia Crisafulli is an award-winning New York Times best-selling author. She received a Master of Fine Arts (MFA) degree from Northwestern University, where she received the Distinguished Thesis Award in Creating Writing. She is launching the Ohnita Harbor Mystery Series with *The Secrets of Ohnita Harbor*. Connect with her at [www.FaithHopeandFiction.com](http://www.FaithHopeandFiction.com).



# **INSPIRATIONAL ADULT NOVELS**

# DEEP COVER

A NOVEL



TRACI HUNTER  
ABRAMSON

## DEEP COVER

By Traci Hunter Abramson

Inspirational Romantic Suspense/Action Adventure - Covenant

Twenty-eight-year-old Kelsey Weber is one of the CIA's finest undercover agents. After two years under deep cover in Salman Nassar's desert compound, she's unearthed vital information on the volatile Middle Eastern extremist sect.

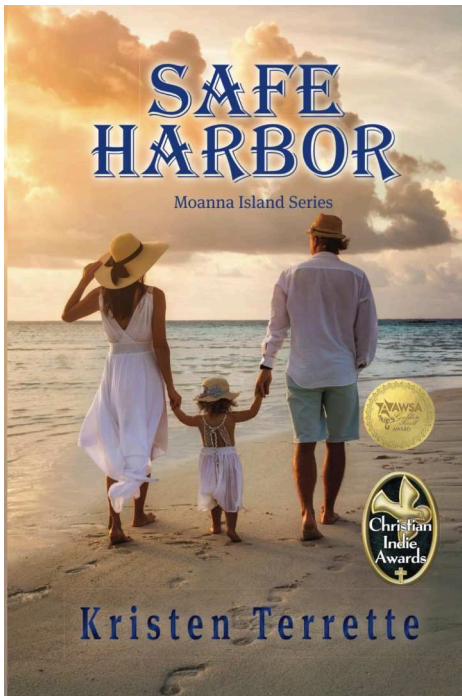
When her allegiance is called into question, Nassar teaches her a lesson she won't forget—with a bullet to the leg. Kelsey is whisked out of the field to recuperate in the safety of her missionary parents' empty Virginia home. But civilian life proves to be more complicated than Kelsey anticipated when she meets FBI agent Noah Cabbott, the handsome neighbor tasked by her parents with safeguarding the family home in their absence. As their relationship deepens, she's torn by her inability to divulge who—and what—she really is.

In a twist of fate, their separate investigations converge in a horrifying plot that threatens the nation's security, and Kelsey's identity is revealed. She and Noah have been assigned as members of a secret task force, united with one common goal: to thwart Nassar's impending terrorist attack. As the situation grows increasingly dire, she is horrified to learn that there is a traitor in their midst: An agency mole has been leaking information to the enemy. Kelsey's world is thrown into chaos with the shocking realization that nothing is as it seems, and each step toward the truth draws her deeper into a web of conspiracy more intricate and deadly than she dreamed . . .

Traci has many film and television rights (perfect for scripted series) available for her many books and series. You can find a list of these available rights at: [LINK](#)

Traci Hunter Abramson is an award-winning and best-selling author in suspense, espionage, action/adventure, and romance genres. She was born in Arizona, where she lived until moving to Venezuela for a study abroad program. After graduating from Brigham Young University, she worked for the **Central Intelligence Agency**, eventually resigning in order to raise her family. She credits the CIA with giving her a wealth of ideas as well as the skills needed to survive her children's teenage years. She loves to travel and recently retired after twenty-six years coaching her local high school swim team. She has written over forty-five best-selling novels and is an eight-time Whitney Award winner, including 2017 and 2019 Best Novel of the Year and a Lifetime Achievement Award in 2024. You can find out more about Traci and her books at [www.traciabramson.com](http://www.traciabramson.com).





# SAFE HARBOR

By Kristen Terrette

Elk Lake Publishing

2024 Romance Novel of the Year  
(AWSA Golden Scroll)  
2024 Christian Indie Award, 1<sup>st</sup> Place  
(CIPA)  
2023 Emerging Leader  
(ECPA)

Neither Death nor Relocation nor a Hurricane can stop love.

**Eva Elliott** is left with a jaded heart after the death of her boyfriend while she was pregnant. She pushed away the idea of God and love, focusing solely on her daughter, Willow.

She accepts an offer from her mom to move her and Willow to Moanna Island, off the coast of Georgia. She hopes the move will help her tuck away the guilt for her role in her boyfriend's death.

**Thad Smith's** Pro-Football career came to a crashing and embarrassing halt, sending him running to Moanna Island. He now enjoys living under the radar and finds a new purpose, but he feels guilty for the sting of loneliness that's crept into his seemingly full life.

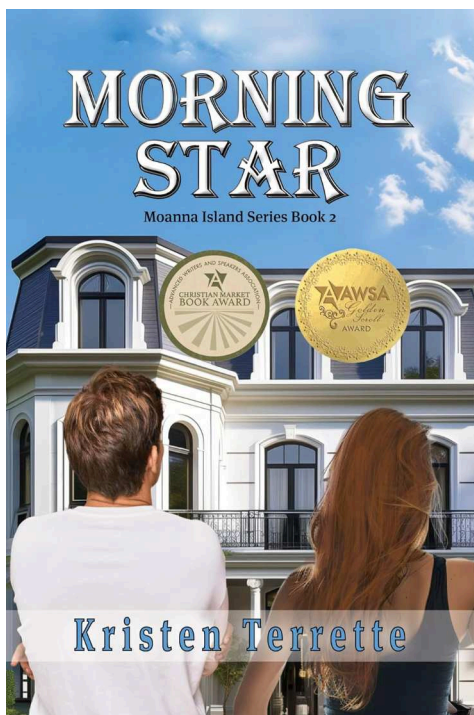
When he saves Willow from drowning in the ocean the first day Eva arrives on the island, he can't deny the electricity between them. Eva stubbornly fights the stirring in her heart the moment Thad smiles, but since Thad coaches the football team where Eva teaches and lives down the street, God continues to intertwine their lives. When he tells Eva he's not only falling for her, but Willow as well, she thinks maybe...just maybe, it would work between them.

But shame, secrets on both sides, ex-lovers, and a killer hurricane all threaten the love and life they seek to share—and one of them may not survive.



**Kristen** holds a master's degree in theological studies and served as a Children's Ministry Director and Women's Leader for many years before returning to her first love—stories. After managing an international blog and a publishing house's social media feed, she found herself as an intern at the esteemed literary agency, Writers House, in the summer of 2022. This landed her a job with Martin Literary Management where she now represents author clients of her own. Stories are her thing and authors are her people. She's had five novels published in both the romance and young adult genres with more on the way and has clients across many genres (she has a hard time staying in one lane). When not on her computer editing, pitching books, or with her nose in one, you may find her getting a little too loud on the sidelines of a kids' basketball game. Check her out at:

[www.kristenterrette.com](http://www.kristenterrette.com)



# MORNING STAR

By Kristen Terrette

Elk Lake Publishing

(Moanna Island Series, Book Two)

2025 Golden Scroll 3<sup>rd</sup> Place Winner in Romance Novel of the Year (AWSA Golden Scroll)



2025 Christian Market Book Awards 3<sup>rd</sup> Place Winner in Novel of the Year Category (ASWSA)

2023 Emerging Leader (ECPA)



**Addie McHenry, restoration home builder extraordinaire**, catches her big break when the House to Home Network contracts her to film a **reality TV** show focusing on how she brings home back to life. She sets her sights on one of the oldest on Moanna's beach and must risk everything just to get it.

**Shane Armstrong** moved from Savannah to his grandmother's Oceanside house when his world shattered five months before. He went on leave from his job as a **Coast Guard helicopter rescue swimmer**, hoping his grandmother's peaceful street will heal him. The reality TV show's arrival threatens this serenity.

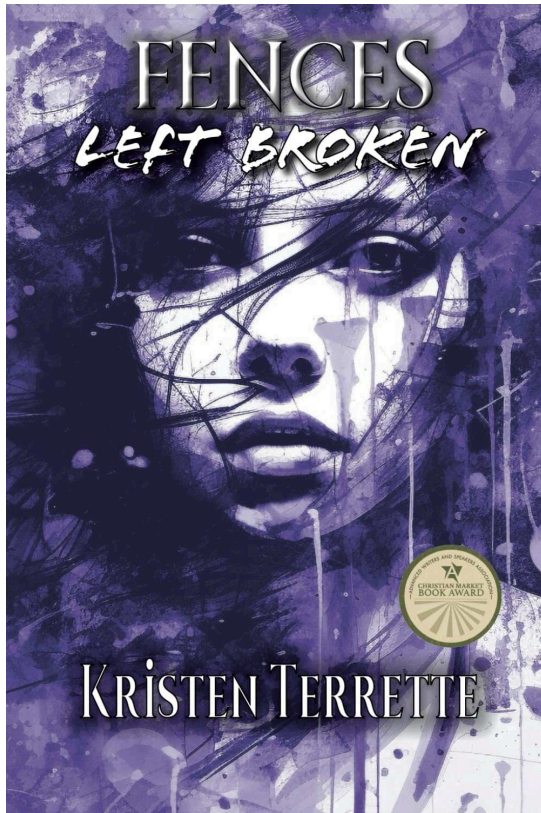
With each encounter, Shane's walls start to crumble as Addie brings more than just the historical home back to life. And Addie tries desperately not to enjoy spending time with the irritable and scowling boy next door. Both being only temporary Moanna residents, their thin ice relationship crashes to a halt. Can Shane return to his risky job with the Coast Guard? And can Addie let him go and follow her dreams even when tragedy strikes?

**Safe Harbor**, Book One of the Moanna Island Series won the 2024 Romance Novel of the Year (an AWSA Golden Scroll) & 2024 Christian Indie Award, 1<sup>st</sup> Place (CIPA)

**Kristen** holds a master's degree in theological studies and served as a Children's Ministry Director and Women's Leader for many years before returning to her first love—stories. After managing an international blog and a publishing house's social media feed, she found herself as an intern at the esteemed literary agency, Writers House, in the summer of 2022. This landed her a job with Martin Literary Management where she now represents author clients of her own. Stories are her thing and authors are her people. She's had five novels published in both the romance and young adult genres with more on the way and has clients across many genres (she has a hard time staying in one lane). When not on her computer editing, pitching books, or with her nose in one, you may find her getting a little too loud on the sidelines of a kids' basketball game. Check her out at:

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# FENCES LEFT BROKEN

By Kristen Terrette

Elk Lake Publishing, 2023

A Golden Scroll Award Finalist, 2024  
 A Christian Market book Award Finalist, 2024  
 A Christian Indie Award 2<sup>nd</sup> place Winner, 2025

*Finding out she's the granddaughter of neighboring families—torn apart by racism, war, death, and murder—only the beginning of the story.*

“Written with belief that every side of a story deserves to be told, *Fences Left Broken* beautifully blends the hard truths of history with the healing power of hope. Through the lives of compelling cast, Terrette takes us on a stirring journey across generations - one that will leave you thinking long after the last page.”

- Allie Millington, author of *Olivetti*.

Mia's father is dead. Now she's dumped in the rural Mississippi Delta town of Marigold the summer before her senior year with family she's never known.

The strange catch? Her maternal and paternal grandparents are next-door neighbors. But so much more than a fence and their skin colors separate these rivaling families, her families, the Montagues and Capulets of Marigold.

When she learns their hatred toward one another has something to do with murder, she and her new friends—who are longing for adventure in the last three weeks of a boring summer—set out to uncover the buried secrets and tragedies from as far back as the Great Depression, World War II, and the Freedom Summer Movement of '64.

Mia hopes to reconcile her grandparents by finding the truth. But can broken family fences be truly mended in the face of decades of unforgiving hate?

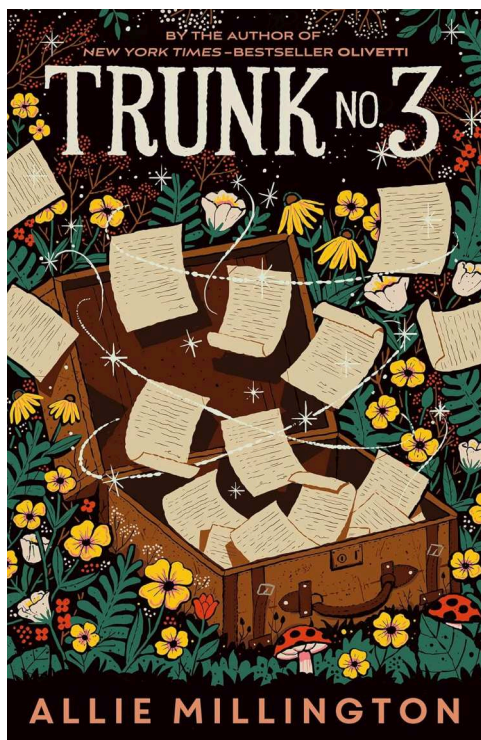


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**MIDDLE GRADE  
&  
YOUNG ADULT  
NOVELS**



# TRUNK N<sup>o</sup>. 3

By Allie Millington

Middle Grade

Feiwel & Friends -  
October 2026 release

From the New York Times-bestselling author of *Olivetti*, here is the story of a magical – and life changing – correspondence.

Trunk No.3, a worn, wrinkled suitcase with a secret, was perfectly fine with staying closed forever. Until she's stolen by a despondent boy with plans to run away. When a strange note appears in the trunk, however, an accidental correspondence begins to throw everything off course—and toward something, someone, entirely unexpected.

Eleven-year-old Earl Grey has been raised at the Repertorium—a rare library that holds once-forgotten items, each with a tangible memory tied to their very being. She longs to discover life outside of the library and to find answers about her Before. Little does Earl Grey know that the mysterious pen pal she starts writing to will lead to a life-changing friendship and the unraveling truth of her past.

New York Times-bestselling author Allie Millington weaves together a poignant, uniquely delivered story about connection, worth, and seeing more in the seemingly ordinary—including ourselves.



**Allie Millington** is an author, artist, and entrepreneur. She enjoys telling stories from unique, unexplored points of view and strives to share relatable truths through a quirky lens, all while bringing a balance of humor and heart. Her projects are represented by the WME, including her previous middle grade novels, also by Macmillan, *Olivetti* (an NYT bestseller), and *Once For Yes*.. Her two picture books, *When You Find A Hope* and *When You Find A Question* are with Worthy Kids/Hachette. And Allie has a poetry gift book, *Looking Down*, with Align/Penguin Random House coming in 2027. Allie lives near Atlanta, Georgia, with her husband, baby Lowen, fluffy dog Crumpet, and a collection of clacking machines.

You can find her on Instagram here: [@allieinink](https://www.instagram.com/allieinink)

<https://www.alliemillingtonbooks.com>



# CAUGHT ON CAMERA

By Melissa J. Miles

Middle Grade / Thriller

Moon & Bird/Watkins – US & UK

Coming Summer 2027

When 13-year-old Dominic Jackson already finds English class less boring than usual when he spots a supposedly dead senator spinning a postcard rack in Times Square. The rest of the class is glued to the sights and sounds of the city, excited to experience the setting of their class novel. But Dominic, a whiz at patterns, only has eyes for the distinctive birthmark and unique mannerisms belonging to disgraced Senator Jefferson Morgan. The entire world watched news footage of the yacht explosion that killed the senator just days before his scheduled testimony against the global crime ring Double Helix. So how could he be at looking at postcards? After all, dead men don't buy souvenirs.

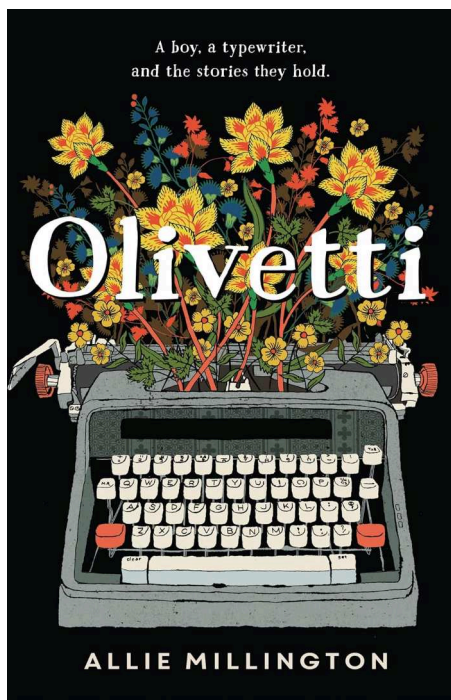
At home, Dominic enhances the image. The ball cap and dark glasses might fool facial recognition cameras. But not him. However, convincing his parent proves impossible. Desperate to prove he's right, and to bring Senator Morgan to justice, Dominic creates a podcast to share his conclusions about Morgan's identity. It goes viral in a way he never imagined. Soon, Dominic is on the run—trying to figure out Senator Morgan's next steps while evading underworld operatives, a rogue federal agent, and his own anxieties.

**CAUGHT ON CAMERA** features a neurodivergent main character with superpowers (Melissa's now-adult son is autistic, and this novel showcases the way his special mind thinks). It's a fun ride for kids who love adventure and mysteries with lots of surprises along the way.

Melissa Miles is a pediatric nurse and a certified K-12 educator. She is the co-Regional Advisor for SCBWI Southern Breeze and a Board Chair for Superhero Success Foundation, a non-profit she created that advocates for more disability representation in children's books. Learn more here:

<https://www.melissajohnstonmiles.com/>





# OLIVETTI

By Allie Millington

Middle Grade

Feiwell & Friends - October 2024

A New York Times Bestseller

It's a thankless job, keeping memories alive. At least that's how recently replaced computer Olivetti the typewriter feels. But when the family who leaves him behind is in trouble, he knows he has just what they need.

**Toy Story meets Greenwild in this heartfelt story of family, resilience.**

***Review by Tom Hanks in NYT 3-24-2024***

Being a **typewriter** is not as easy as it looks. Surrounded by books (notorious attention hogs) and recently replaced by a computer, OLIVETTI has been forgotten by the Brindle family—the humans he's lived with for years. The Brindles have become busy creatures: Felix and Beatrice work constantly, three of their children put the extra in extra curriculars, and Ernest, their reclusive, guarded twelve-year-old, goes off alone to read his collection of Oxford English Dictionaries. The least they could do was remember OLIVETTI once in a while, since he remembers every single word they've typed on him. It's a thankless job, keeping memories alive. OLIVETTI gets a rare glimpse of action from Beatrice, his used-to-be most frequent visitor—only for her to drop him off at Heartland Pawn Shop and leave him helplessly behind. It isn't until Ernest spots him in the shop window that OLIVETTI learns **Beatrice has mysteriously gone missing**. OLIVETTI believes he can help find her and prove he's more than just some pawn. He breaks the only rule of his 'kind' and **types back to Ernest, divulging Beatrice's memories stored inside him**.

Their search takes them across **San Francisco—typing on toilet seats, dodging a dumpster-diving girl, and sure, committing a few minor felonies**. As OLIVETTI spills out the past, Ernest is forced to face what **he and his family have been running from The Everything That Happened**. Only by working together will they **find Beatrice, friendship, and the parts of themselves they've lost**.

This Middle Grade magical realism story is told from the unique vantage points of a witty typewriter and a lonely, introverted boy—both of whom **discover their voice and belonging**. It's full of humor, heart, and the magic of memories.



**Allie Millington** is an author, artist, and entrepreneur. She enjoys telling stories from unique, unexplored points of view and strives to share relatable truths through a quirky lens, all while bringing a balance of humor and heart. Her projects are represented by the WME, including her previous middle grade novels, also by Macmillan, *Olivetti* (an NYT bestseller), and *Once For Yes*..

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<https://www.alliemillingtonbooks.com>



# OLIVETTI

By Allie Millington

An Instant Indies Bestseller!

An Amazon Best Book of the Month, April 2024 Barnes and Noble Pick of the Month, April 2025 New York Times Bestseller, May 13, 2025 MacMillan Publishers Book of the Month May, 2025 Maria Shriver Sunday Paper 2025 Summer Reading List

**SJL Best Books of 2024, Booklist Best Books of 2024, Bookshops Best Books of 2024, Audio File's best Audiobooks for Family & Children in 2024, The Children's Book Review's Best Middle Grade Books of 2024, Amazon's Best Books and Amazon Editor's Pick, NPR 10 Best Book Ideas for Kids in 2024, Boston Globe's 75 Best Books of 2024, Chinese and French Rights Bought!**

Her Olivetti is neither an automaton nor a pushover — there is a painful and problematic crisis in the house he has called home and his voice drives the action with compassion. Ernest speaks with a confusion and simmering panic recognizable to anyone who was once 12, loved their mother deeply and feared for her life... **The Brindles will go on confronting 'Everything,' with hope, gusto and all the unity they can muster. They will set the family table for seven, with a place for Olivetti; put paper in his carriage and wait.** —Tom Hanks in the New York Times Book Review

★ An introverted boy and his missing mother's cherished typewriter plumb forgotten family stories while journeying toward acceptance in this touching middle-grade mystery. The Brindle family swarms distractedly around seventh-grader Ernest, everyone fixed in their ways until the morning Beatrice, his mom, vanishes. This isn't the family's first trauma, but, after "Everything That Happened," Ernest finds an unexpected ally: Olivetti, Beatrice's classic typewriter, who explains, "We [typewriters] hold thousands of stories. Worlds full of words." ...As inanimate narrators go, Olivetti is especially well suited to the task and takes turns with Ernest in lending his perspective to the short chapters. **And, as stories about stories go, Olivetti's and Ernest's insights about the power of memories, both held and shared, speak volumes.** Offering a Where'd You Go, Bernadette vibe, with its unspooling of a youth perspective on the adult world, this melancholic yet hopeful pick will appeal to fans of books with nonhuman protagonists and readers who enjoy emotional stories with alternating perspectives, such as A Rover's Story and The Lost Library." —Booklist Magazine, **starred** review

★ Debut author Millington skillfully delivers a complex storyline that deals with heavy topics. **With plenty of quotable wisdom, richly textured language, and dry humor, this work reads like a classic.** —Kirkus Reviews, **starred** review

"An ideal pick for readers looking for both honesty and hope." —BCCB

"A lively and tender story about language, archive, and family history, Millington's debut will keep young readers on their toes ...Formatted in alternating chapters between Ernest and Olivetti's points of view, readers will be delighted by the book's playfulness, as well as its bittersweet look at the power of memory, and how a family can be broken and then healed. A quirky, heartfelt novel." —School Library Journal

"[A] **unique debut.** Despite the recent appearance of a laptop ("the glossy show-off"), Olivetti has accumulated "an endless number of memories" working with owner Beatrice. His patient existence is upended when he's abruptly sold to a pawn shop and Beatrice goes missing... Olivetti's snarky observations entertain, and the human protagonists' **endearing support for each other's endeavors paints a worthwhile portrait of community.**" —Publishers Weekly

"A lovable introvert, a typewriter with a lot to say, and an irresistible mystery come together to create a one-of-a-kind reading experience." —Molly Olivo, bookseller at Child's Play, Washington, D.C.



# MIDNIGHT FALLS

By Hayley Reese Chow & E. P. Stavs

Young Adult - Charlesbridge - Fall 2027

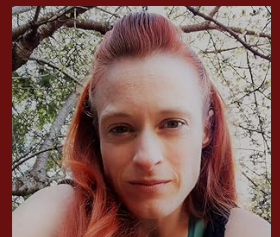
MIDNIGHT FALLS crosses the lovably bizarre spirits of Studio Ghibi with the banter-filled Gilmore Girls vibe and an Addams Family aesthetic in this cozy, but creepy, YA paranormal mystery with a sweet side of dual-POV romance.

With themes of finding your voice, your home, and your roots, this novel is a feel-good, fun read for all the oddballs out there who love a little fantastical weirdness in their every day.

Still reeling from her mother's death, sixteen-year-old Amelia Wells braces herself for a new life as she moves across the country to live with her mysterious great-aunt in her mom's hometown. Nothing, however, could prepare her for the paranormal spectacle of Midnight Falls—a cheerful tourist destination for spirits and humans alike. As her witchy great-aunt, a sentient B&B, and the quirky local spirits greet her with open arms, Amelia seizes the opportunity to learn more about the home her mother never spoke of. But when Amelia finds out her father disappeared from Midnight Falls under suspicious circumstances, she starts her own investigation to find out what happened to him.

Wyatt Banning has had enough of Midnight Falls. Weighed down by the responsibilities of his family's recently viral bakery, he doesn't have time to play tour-guide for the new girl... even if she is cute. And he definitely doesn't have the energy for the spirits' weird pranks—especially the creepy, invasive voice that's been haunting his thoughts for weeks. But when Wyatt's touch gives Amelia nightmarish visions of the past, it becomes clear that someone in Midnight Falls is hiding a murderous secret. The clock is ticking for the next victim though, and if Amelia and Wyatt don't untangle the town's darkest mystery in time, it could be one of them.

**Hayley Reese Chow** is an award-winning author, mother of wild boys, wife, mechanical engineer, Air Force Reserve officer, four-time All-American fencer, ex-ultramarathoner, world traveler, and super nerd with three older sisters who are way cooler than her.



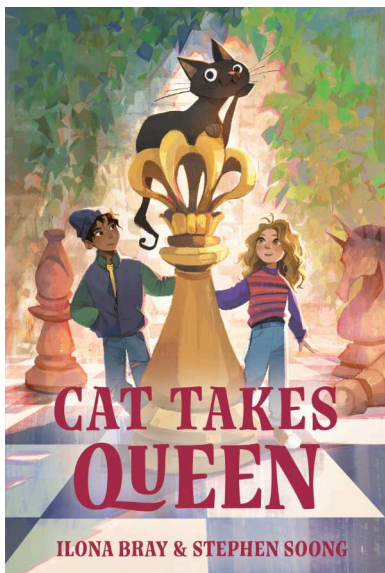
E.P. Stavs

**E.P. Stavs** grew up in rural New York where she stayed awake far too late reading beneath covers with a flashlight and a thoroughly worn-out library card. But it wasn't until several years, marriage, and two babies later that she would draft the first in a series of young adult romantic fantasy books to completion.

**E. P. and Hayley** met through a mutual love of each other's books and eventually became critique partners. Soon after, they were diving into the world of co-authoring, and their quirky YA paranormal came to life.



Hayley Reese Chow



# CAT TAKES QUEEN

By Ilona Bray & Stephen Soong

Middle Grade

Feiwei & Friends - Fall 2026

Morphy, a witty stray cat with an attitude, steers clear of humans—except for Edgar, his elderly chess-playing friend. When Edgar is taken away in an ambulance, Morphy sets out to find him. Only by teaming up with Edgar’s headstrong granddaughter, who’s trying to gain her judgmental parents’

Respect via chess mastery, and a young street-chess player from Central America who struggles with PTSD, can Morphy help bring Edgar home, elude a catnapper, and create a new “found family” in CAT TAKES QUEEN: In Which a Humble Cat of Astonishing Genius Recounts a Tale of Chess Mates and Checkmates

This outside-the-box middle grade novel interweaves a compelling narrative with pithy chess scenarios and brainteasers, complete with diagrams and simple explanations. This responds to a market gap as chess is gaining popularity all over the world. Parents, teachers, and librarians agree chess is exploding among children, yet the vast majority of chess-related books for young people either are straight how-tos or use the chess world mainly as background. This book, and potential media, by contrast, allows budding chess enthusiasts to deepen their knowledge and pick up tips and lingo.

Plus, it’s hilarious, because, well... cats!

The authors are a husband-and-wife team, each bringing unique expertise to this project. They recently moved from the Bay Area to EcoVillage at Ithaca, in NY.

**Ilona Bray** is all about words and stories and would rather play Scrabble than any other game—though she finds chess fascinating in its elusive brain-teasing.

[ilonabraylit.com](http://ilonabraylit.com)

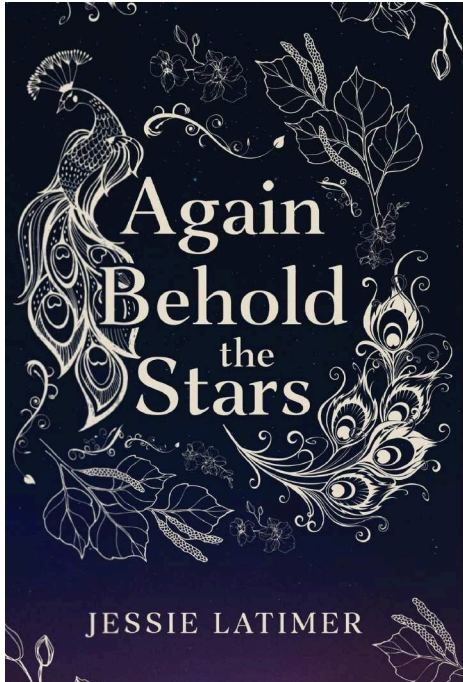
**Stephen Soong**, a self-described Chinese American chess geek, taught himself the game (with the aid of a lot of books). At Brown University, he was on a team of students that competed at the U.S. Amateur Team Championships, where he managed to beat a computer. At one point his U.S. Chess Federation rating placed him in the top 5% of all rated chess players nationwide.



Ilona Bray



Stephen Soong



# AGAIN, BEHOLD THE STARS

By Jessie Latimer

Young Adult

Quill & Flame Publishing, Fall 2026

**Rigby Rhymes** wants one thing out of life: a grand adventure, just like the ones in her favorite books. Preferably one involving secret passageways, magic spells, and cute long-haired guys with swords. Unfortunately, she lives in the real world. No wizards have stopped by to tell her she's the Chosen One™.

So when she dies before even learning to drive, her dreams of adventure die with her. But then, en route to the afterlife, her eccentric guardian angel offers her a deal: If she agrees to enter the story-world of her favorite novel and change the plot enough to keep the brooding antagonist, **Wick**, from dying at the end, she'll get a second chance at life.

But when snoopy Jasper, aka Wick, discovers he's a fictional character (big oops) and tears Rigby's copy of the book in half, he inadvertently stops time in the story-world and attracts the attention of the interdimensional **Vices**, a book-burning motorcycle gang of Deadly Sins obsessed with eradicating happy endings. With the unlikely help of Wick (and her goody-two-shoes fictional crush, **Chance Golden**), Rigby must return to the real world, seek a mysterious librarian called the **Bookbinder**, and repair the book before the Vices destroy the story-world—and Rigby's last chance at a grand adventure—forever

Jessie's debut is narrated by the self-aware voice of the book itself (similar to the narration style of *The Book Thief* and *A Series of Unfortunate Events*). It's A NEVERENDING STORY for this generation.



**Jessie Fanczi Latimer** is a writer and freelance editor living with her husband & young son in metro-Atlanta. She is a lover of books and killer of houseplants. As a child, she was constantly getting into trouble for reading when she was supposed to be doing other things.

Jessie holds a BFA and MFA in Creative Writing from Reinhardt University in Waleska, Georgia, where she edited an edition of *The James Dickey Review*. She once lived in a bedroom with a bookshelf that opened to a secret passageway, and she loves sharing book reviews on her Bookstagram and Book Tok pages.

[www.jessielatimerbooks.com](http://www.jessielatimerbooks.com)



# ONCE FOR YES

By Allie Millington

Middle Grade

Feiwel & Friends - March 2025

A New York Times Bestseller

The Odenburgh, an old apartment building made of brick and blunt opinions, is the last of its kind in a swiftly changing neighborhood. After years of putting up with people and their many problems, the Odenburgh knows there's no point in getting attached. They all just leave eventually. A truth that comes all too soon when the building is sold and slated for demolition, giving tenants a month to move out.

No one is more troubled by the news than eleven-year-old Prue, who refuses to leave her family's apartment. Not when it was the last place she lived with her sister Lina, before she lost Lina forever. When Prue launches a plan to save their home, the Odenburgh joins in—flickering lights, jamming elevators, triggering fire alarms—all to try and bring a building full of bickering residents together. In the process, Prue meets Lewis, an eccentric boy who lives across the street—and the only one who can help her discover the missing elements of her sister's story.

Heartfelt and bursting with a community of unique characters, *Once For Yes* is a testament to the endurance of love and the people we carry with us, wherever we go. Told from the unique vantage points of an ornery apartment building and a cast of quirky humans, *ONCE FOR YES* is a story about falling in love, the grief of goodbyes, and the people we carry with us, wherever we go.

## Praise for *ONCE FOR YES*:

★ “a well-crafted read with a tragedy at its heartbreaking center and a constellation of moving parts that draw readers into its uniquely human anti-gentrification story.” -*The*

*Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books*

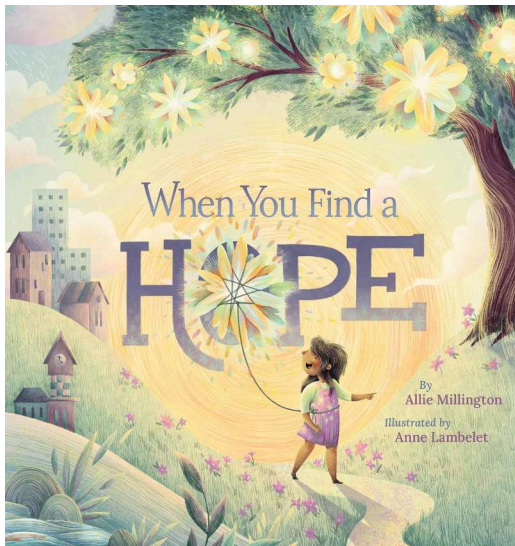
**Allie Millington** is an author, artist, and entrepreneur. She enjoys telling stories from unique, unexplored points of view and strives to share relatable truths through a quirky lens, all while bringing a balance of humor and heart. Her projects are represented by the WME, including her previous middle grade novels, also by Macmillan, *Olivetti* (an NYT bestseller), and *Once For Yes*..

Her two picture books, *When You Find A Hope* and *When You Find A Question* are with Worthy Kids/Hachette. And Allie has a poetry gift book, *Looking Down*, with Align/Penguin Random House coming in 2027. Allie lives near Atlanta, Georgia, with her husband, baby Lowen, fluffy dog Crumpet, and a collection of clacking machines.

You can find her on Instagram here: [@allieinink](https://www.instagram.com/allieinink)

<https://www.alliemillingtonbooks.com>





# WHEN YOU FIND A HOPE

By New York Times Bestselling Author

By Allie Millington

Picture Book

Worthy Kids / Hachette - March 2025

Experience the improbable beauty of a shattered hope born anew in this magical tale about a young girl, a tree full of hopes, and the power of perseverance.

In this tale of unexplained wonder, there is a tree that grows hope from its branches. A curious girl visits the tree and plucks the largest, brightest hope she can find. Her hope can float, so she tethers it to her side and takes it with her everywhere. When the unimaginable happens and her hope is crushed, the girl pieces her hope back together and drags it along behind her until even the pieces are lost—or are they? Looking back, she finds that small trees have begun to sprout in her wake, the beautiful offerings of her now firmly rooted, thriving hope.

The first picture book from bestselling author Allie Millington (Olivetti), this moving story celebrates the importance of holding onto hope and the improbable beauty of a lost hope born anew.

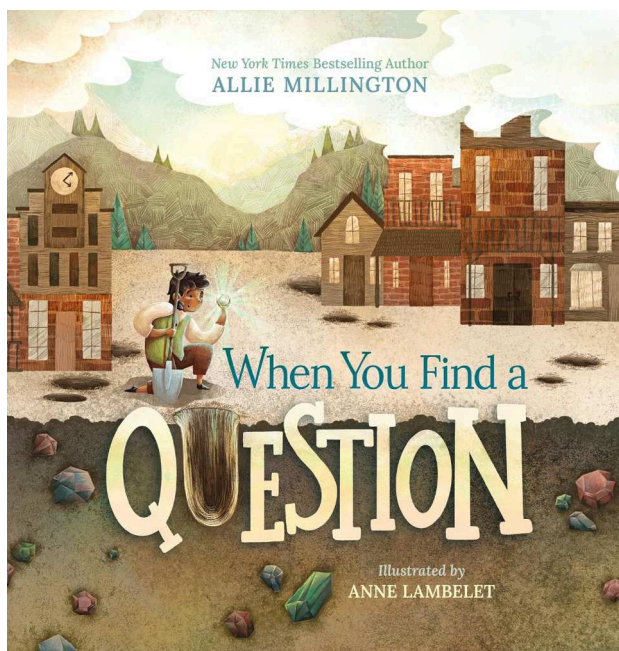


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# WHEN YOU FIND A QUESTION

By New York Times Bestselling Author

By Allie Millington

Picture Book

Worthy Kids / Hachette - March 2026

Answers can teach us many things. But what if Questions can teach us even more?

There is a town where everyone digs for Answers, valuing them above all else. One day, a boy digs up something he's not seen before—a Question. Curious, but afraid of what others will think, he keeps his Question hidden.

But the more the boy wonders, the more his Question grows and grows, until finally he can't hold it in any longer.

The boy lets his Question out—and that's when his town changes forever.

Discover the value of boundless curiosity in this magical tale about the power of asking questions.

**Allie Millington** is an author, artist, and entrepreneur. She enjoys telling stories from unique, unexplored points of view and strives to share relatable truths through a quirky lens, all while bringing a balance of humor and heart. Her projects are represented by the WME, including her previous middle grade novels, also by Macmillan, *Olivetti* (an NYT bestseller), and *Once For Yes*..

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