

June 30 & July 7, 2025

booklife®

YOUR GUIDE TO SELF-PUBLISHING

59 New BookLife Titles Listed • 22 New BookLife Titles Reviewed

Indie Spotlight

In this edition of our monthly thematic roundup of BookLife titles, we feature mysteries and thrillers.

Want to see your book featured? Check out the Indie Spotlight calendar at booklife.com/indiespotlight.

COZY MYSTERIES AND AMATEUR SLEUTHS

Getting Rid of Gary



Noah Chinn

ASIN B0947JVLNB

Author statement: "It's August, 1985, and private investigator James Cote has a problem. Someone has kidnapped his uncle Gary and shipped him off to Peru.

Getting Rid of Gary was loosely inspired by some of the family drama that happened after my grandmother passed away, but it was mostly a way to revisit the 1980s through the lens of a cozy mystery."

Misty Manor



Linda Rawlins

ISBN 978-0-9914230-1-9

Author statement: "Three years have passed since Hurricane Sandy devastated the New Jersey Shore, as Megan Stanford returns to her childhood home to find her elderly grandmother and the family grand Victorian

in a state of shocking neglect. When the town threatens to sue to ensure demolition of the guest cottages behind Misty Manor, mystery unfolds in the once quiet town of Misty Point."

Morgan's Landing

Linda Griffin

ASIN B0DZY1YR6V

Author statement: "Julie Morgan is 14, living in comfort with her



parents and twin sister, when she disappears.

Detective Jim Brady identifies a few suspects—including his own teenage son. I was less interested in the answer than in how a small-town cop would go about searching for it and how other townspeople would react and speculate."

POLITICAL AND INTERNATIONAL THRILLERS

Black Swan Impact



Helen Vettori

ASIN B0CVLHYHBV

Author statement: "I didn't know I would write *Black Swan Impact* when I retired from the Department of Homeland Security in 2018. However, when Covid-19 emerged, I was appalled by official actions or lack thereof, so I imagined a future scenario and created this sci-fi political thriller."

Deep Freeze



Anne Louise O'Connell

ISBN 978-1-989833-45-2

Author statement: "Susan Morris is relishing the artificial cold of Ski Dubai with fellow expat Pat Thornton when she sees the chairlift carrying Pat's husband detach from its cable. Susan begins to suspect the chairlift crash was no accident. I first started writing fiction when I was living in the United Arab Emirates. The experiences I had were such great fodder for storytelling."

Booksellers & Librarians:



How are you handling self-published books?

Every week, *Publishers Weekly* reviewers highlight self-published books that deserve your attention.

PLUS



Reviews

look for "self-published"
at the end of a review
[publishersweekly.com/
self-pub](https://publishersweekly.com/self-pub)



paid reviews of self- or
indie-published titles
[publishersweekly.com/
BookLifeReviews](https://publishersweekly.com/BookLifeReviews)



PW reviewers critique
thousands of self-published
titles every year:
[publishersweekly.com/
BookLifePrize](https://publishersweekly.com/BookLifePrize)

Let us help you find the best in self-published books!

All powered by *Publishers Weekly* reviewers.

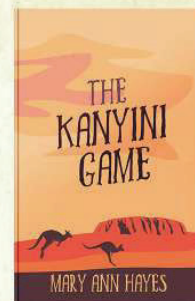
Mary Ann Hayes

A Life Written In Wonder



Nestled on the serene shores of Camano Island, Washington, Mary Ann Hayes draws daily inspiration from the natural beauty that surrounds her. Living with her husband and their devoted golden retrievers, she enjoys the blessings of a close-knit family—three adult children and three grandchildren, who enrich her life with love and joy. Her personal journey, much like her writing, is woven with adventure, curiosity, and a deep sense of warmth.

Mary Ann is the author of four compelling novels, each shaped by her passion for storytelling and exploration. Among them, *Adeline* holds a special place in her heart, a poignant novella that speaks to the power of love, resilience, and the everyday moments that make life truly meaningful.



ISBN: 9781684867592



ISBN: 9798896901228



ISBN: 9798896901334

At the heart of her writing lies a profound message:

“Life should be treated like a great adventure. Learn everything you can, discover as much of the world as possible—and every chance you get, be kind.”

This philosophy radiates through her work. In *The Kanyini Game*, readers are transported into a world where ancient Aboriginal wisdom intersects with modern dilemmas. Rooted in the spiritual principle of Kanyini—a belief in interconnectedness, responsibility, and care—the novel invites reflection on the balance between tradition and progress.

The Carnelian Game takes a different turn, immersing readers in a thrilling story of secrets, power, and intrigue. With suspense at every turn, the novel explores the complexities of human nature and the consequences of our choices—all delivered with Mary Ann’s signature depth and heart.

The Malagasy Game is a work in progress and will be the final book in her three-book Dreamscape Series.

But it’s *Adeline*, her most intimate work, that perhaps best captures the soul of the author herself. A tiny novella, *Adeline* spins a quiet but powerful tale, echoing Mary Ann’s own world view—one where kindness, empathy, and understanding hold the power to transform lives.

Through both her stories and her life, Mary Ann Hayes encourages us to embrace every day as an adventure, to open our hearts to other cultures, and to live with intention and compassion. Her words remind us that there’s always something new to discover—and endless opportunities to leave the world a little kinder than we found it.

Available at:

amazon.com

BARNES & NOBLE



*also in other major online bookstores

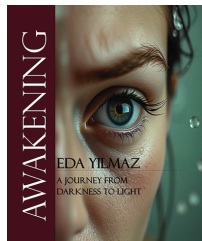


New Titles from Self-Publishers

Booksellers, publishers, librarians, and agents are encouraged to look at the 59 self-published titles below. Each appears with a list of retailers that are selling the book and a description provided by its author. Some of these writers are waiting to be discovered; others have track records and followings and are doing it on their own. If you are a self-published author interested in listing titles in this section, please visit publishersweekly.com/pw-select for more information.

Fiction

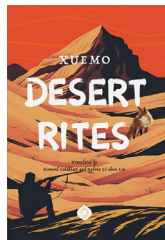
Awakening: A Journey from Darkness to Light



Eda Yilmaz. Eda Yilmaz. \$5.99 e-book, ISBN 979-8-230-71432-3
Amazon, Apple Books, Barnes & Noble, Kobo, Smashwords

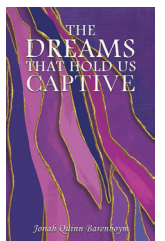
Inspired by a true story, *Awakening* follows the events leading to a woman's life-threatening manic episode, her unprecedented recovery, and the spiritual awakening through which she ultimately rediscovers herself.

Desert Rites: Where the Body Suffers, the Spirit Awakens



Xuemo. Ruxue International Media. \$19.68 (484p), ISBN 979-8-88991-016-9; \$2.99 e-book, ISBN 979-8-88991-014-5
Amazon

Desert Rites explores the tension between human desire and spiritual awakening. Xuemo offers a profound vision of faith, fate, and redemption in contemporary Chinese literature.



The Dreams That Hold Us Captive

Jonah Quinn Barenboym. Austin Macauley Publishers. \$8.95 paper (88p), ISBN 978-1-0358-8526-8; \$4.50 e-book, ISBN 978-1-0358-8527-5

Amazon, Barnes & Noble, Waterstones, WHSmith
The Dreams That Hold Us Captive follows Noah as he navigates through the horrible dream world and deteriorating real one hoping to restore peace to everyone's minds, including his own.

Fathers Before Sons



Ksenija Popovic. Ksenija Popovic. \$16.99 (410p), ISBN 978-9911-597-00-7; \$9.99 e-book, ISBN 978-9911-597-01-4

Amazon, Apple Books, Barnes & Noble, Kobo

A devastating, suspenseful novel about buried truths, generational damage, and a young man who uncovers a past that was meant to stay hidden.

The Fly Who Knew Too Much



Morse Taylor. BookBaby. \$13.99 paper (256p), ISBN 979-8-3509-471-7; \$3.99 e-book, ISBN 979-8-3509-4396-2

Amazon, Barnes & Noble, Bookshop.org, Booktopia, Kobo

This book explores the partnership between a fly and a Hollywood starlet who gather and utilize inside info about entertainment, politics, law, horse racing, drug cartels, and gambling.

A Friend of Dorothy's

Richard Willett. The Magic Show Press. \$17.99 paper (248p), ISBN 979-8-9923398-1-9;

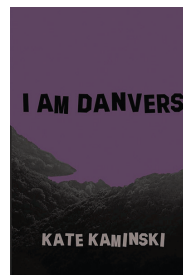


\$6.99 e-book, ISBN 979-8-9923398-2-6

Amazon, Apple Books, Barnes & Noble, Indigo
In 1986 N.Y.C. Eric, 27, wants to be a yuppie but he's only a gay bookstore clerk. And

AIDS is everywhere, even in his friend Dale. Eric becomes his caregiver and it changes both of them.

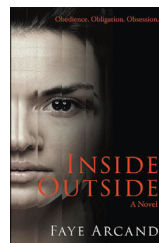
I Am Danvers



Kate Kaminski. KK Editions. \$14.99 paper (272p), ISBN 979-8-9900569-2-3; \$8.99 e-book, ISBN 979-8-218-57713-1
Amazon, Barnes & Noble, Bookshop.org, Hoopla, Kobo

Marie Danvers struggles in an insecure world until she meets a seductive con man who offers her an apprenticeship that will take her on the joyride of her life with lethal consequences.

Inside Outside



Faye Arcand. Faye Arcand. \$19.99 paper (320p), ISBN 978-1-0690295-0-8; \$4.37 e-book, ISBN 978-1-0690295-1-5

Amazon, IngramSpark, Indigo, Kobo
Two women, led by obedience, obligation, and obsession, are joined

BookLife Talks with Ivan Blake

On the heels of his horror trilogy, *The Mortsafeman*, Blake was inspired by his granddaughter to write something she would be allowed to read. The result is his latest work, *Earthedge*, which tells the story of an alternate mid-1900s England and a secret that must be kept at all costs. BookLife Reviews called the book a “richly imagined alternate history tackling the dangers of intellectual repression” and designated it an Editor’s Pick.



What responsibility do you feel to reimagine or change characters based on real people?

I recall hearing a very well-known author say a writer must be prepared to kill their own kids, which is to say anyone can be fodder for the teller of tales. Besides, in an alternate reality, all bets are off. Who is to say in an

alternate reality Churchill wouldn’t have waged a world war to propel him into the Pantheon of the Gods? In *Earthedge*, I’ve reimaged only four real people, and they play very minor roles. As for all the other characters that populate the world of *Earthedge*—and there are many—everyone was a delight to create... and to name, like Sir Maltvinegar Tartarsauce or Lollipop Crossingguard.

All of your books are set in the past. What draws you to write in different eras?

First, because I’m an historian by training. Second, I’m not comfortable with our social media–driven world. I don’t understand, and don’t know how to write about, the ubiquity, the spontaneity, and the drama that attend the contemporary online reality. I barely know how to answer my cellphone. And finally, I’ve always been fascinated by how events in our distant past have tumbled one upon another to trigger the most unlikely outcomes in our present. For example, who could have imagined the moldboard plow would contribute so much to the fall of the Roman Empire, that the turnip and potato would set in motion the inexorable march to the age of revolutions, or that the card catalogue—created not by librarians but by the Napoleonic Secret Police—would give birth to the Information Age and the modern state?

Can readers expect another book from you?

I’ve just completed a dark fantasy titled *The Man Who Made an Angel*. It’s set in post-WWI Germany and is about an old professor living in the bowels of a shuttered university who’s attempting to inspire his defeated nation with an experiment that goes catastrophically wrong. And now I’m working on a book about the Royal Marines Band Service. Few today know that RM bandsmen suffered the second-highest casualty rate after Bomber Command of any branch of the British Armed Services in WWII or that it was RM bandsmen who unleashed the very first volley on D-Day. *Bandy* will be a heck of a story. I came late to writing fiction, but I’m having so much fun, I can’t imagine stopping now.

What is the story behind *Earthedge*?

On my retirement from government service some 15 years ago, I began writing fiction. My sons urged me to try horror because I’d told them so many ghostly tales at our cottage. But now I have grandchildren and a very special granddaughter in particular, and I wanted to write something she would enjoy. As it happened, I’d already been prompted to tackle fantasy by a painting of a Dorset fishing village by moonlight. I recall thinking that if the world was flat, that’s what its edge would look like. Thereafter, I began playing with the implications of a flat earth.

My musings coincided with growing concern over the proliferation of “alternative facts” and efforts to rein in free inquiry and expression. In particular, I was troubled by growing attacks on the independence of science and our universities. I decided to picture a world where scientific research for 1,000 years has had to be approved by bureaucrats, where official truth is whatever the government says it is, and where, as a consequence, progress has been grindingly slow, and innovation and creativity have all but withered. But I couldn’t interest my granddaughter in a polemic against anti-intellectualism, so I also decided to also explore the dark humor implicit in such a ludicrous reality. The result, I hope, is a satirical fantasy for all ages where even the swearing is in Latin.

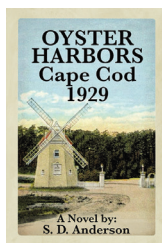
Can you talk about your process for creating this alternate mid-1900s England?

Once I’d decided my tale would be set in an alternate reality where the earth is in fact flat, everything else underwent the same process of inversion. Heroes became fools, eccentrics became heroes, myths became true, and patently obvious nonsense like Mary Toft’s 1726 claim to have given birth to rabbits became official truth. I’d like to think teachers today might enjoy challenging their students to identify all the inversions I’ve woven into the book. Inversions like the Prohiblumination movement responsible for banning electric lights in America because artificial illumination after sunset encourages sinfulness.

For more, visit booklife.com/blake

through circumstance and design, but cracks create desperation as the inside and the outside are about to collide.

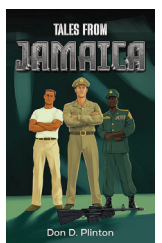
Oyster Harbors: Cape Cod 1929



S.D. Anderson. Cape Cod Publishing. \$24.99 paper (372p), ISBN 979-8-3070-0644-3; \$4.99 e-book, ASIN B0DV3WDCT5 Amazon
A debutante and a Harvard photographer

deal with a dead body, bootleggers, and cultural changes during the Roaring Twenties.

Tales from Jamaica



Don D. Plinton. Austin Macauley Publishers. \$23.95 paper (380p), ISBN 978-1-3984-4431-7; \$4.50 e-book, ISBN 978-1-3984-5562-7
Amazon, Barnes & Noble, Waterstones, WH Smith

A gripping tale of crime, corruption, and power struggles in Jamaica, where gangs rule, the police are compromised, and a ruthless commissioner fights to restore order amid chaos and deception.

Why Did God Make the Tree?: A Patrick Denny Novel



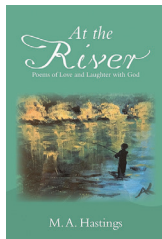
Tammy Gregg. Cemetery Hill Publications. \$28.99 (306p), ISBN 979-8-9923271-0-6; \$17.99 paper, ISBN 979-8-9923271-1-3
Amazon, Barnes & Noble,

Bookshop.org, IngramSpark

Ex-horror novelist Dr. Patrick Denny's unconventional methods clash with hospital norms. As he treats patients, his dark past emerges, blurring fiction and reality.

Poetry

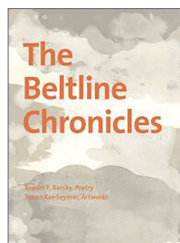
At the River: Poems of Love and Laughter with God



M.A. Hastings. XlibrisUS. \$12.99 paper (108p), ISBN 978-1-6698-7841-4; \$3.99 e-book, ISBN 978-1-6698-7840-7
Amazon
This inspirational poetry

book takes a fresh and sometimes humorous look at current topics like climate change, religion, spirituality, nature, politics, sexuality, social justice, and even pickleball.

The Beltline Chronicles



Robert F. Barsky, illus. by Susan Ker-Seymer. The AmeriQuests Press. \$19.99 paper (124p), ISBN 979-8-218-64884-8
Contours.pubpub.org/
beltline-chronicles, Amazon

The Beltline Chronicles is an epic poem about a fictional poet, "George," who wanders around Atlanta's Beltline gathering up stories and chronicling his discoveries in verse.

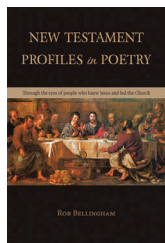
The Heart of Milton Book One: Poetry, Love, Reflection



Milton Joseph Batson. Xulon Press. \$22.49 paper (196p), ISBN 978-1-6628-2260-5; \$7.99 e-book, ISBN 978-1-6628-2262-9
Amazon, AbeBooks, Barnes & Noble, Walmart

Milton Joseph Batson's poetry traces his journey from childhood to now, revealing heartfelt reflections and the evolution of his inner world.

New Testament Profiles in Poetry: Through the Eyes of People Who Knew Jesus and



Led the Church
Rob Bellingham. XlibrisNZ. \$13.99 paper (162p), ISBN 978-1-6698-8100-1; \$3.99 e-book, ISBN 978-1-6698-8099-8
Amazon

Have you ever wished you lived in the 1st century CE and met Jesus? In this collection, 61 New Testament people tell their story of being with Jesus through poetry.

Mystery/Thriller

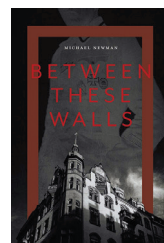
Artist, Lover, Forger, Thief

Sheila Sharpe. Redwood Publishing. \$14.99 paper (312p), ISBN 978-1-966333-14-2; \$6.99 e-book, ISBN 978-1-966333-15-9
Amazon, IngramSpark



Murder and a stolen masterpiece force a clever art forger and his savvy former therapist to evade and outwit the FBI in this entertaining, complex, and compelling art crime novel.

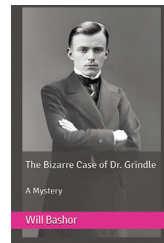
Between These Walls



Michael Newman. Friesen Press. \$28.99 paper (376p), ISBN 978-1-5255-4884-0; \$9.99 e-book, ISBN 978-1-5255-4885-7
Amazon, Barnes & Noble, Indigo

What if an unassuming package from Berlin could unravel the mysteries of a man's identity, changing his life forever? *Between These Walls* is a multi-layered historical saga.

The Bizarre Case of Dr. Grindle: A Mystery



Will Bashor. Will Bashor. \$25.99 (324p), ISBN 979-8-3129-5798-3; \$17.95 paper (324p), ISBN 979-8-3129-3766-4
Amazon, Waterstones

In 1927 Columbus, Nathan Bolton uncovers deadly secrets as murders rock his circle, forcing him to confront loyalty, ambition, and a past that won't stay buried.

Chasing Shadows



A.C. Adams. Acorn Publishing. \$17.99 paper (324p), ISBN 979-8-88528-124-9; \$9.99 e-book, ASIN B0F2TGH3YV
Amazon, Apple Books, Barnes & Noble, Kobo

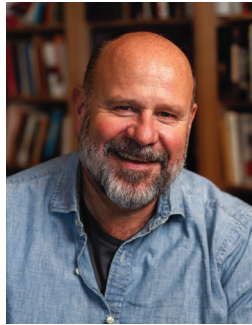
Chasing Shadows follows a young woman's search to uncover the truth about her father's secret life. Inspired by the author's true story.



The Golden Rule
Brian Wright. Austin Macauley Publishers. \$10.95 paper (192p), ISBN 978-1-0358-8552-7; \$4.50 e-book, ISBN 978-1-0358-8553-4
Amazon, Barnes & Noble,

BookLife Talks with Andrew Bridgeman

Bridgeman's second Emma Noble book, *A Noble Sin*, received an Editor's Pick, with BookLife Reviews calling it a "powerhouse thriller" and "a focused, personal sequel powered by surprise and vivid characters." We spoke with Bridgeman about the series and planned future installments.



How did you approach *A Noble Sin* as a sequel?

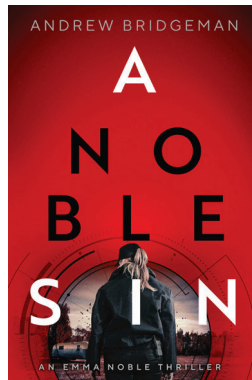
In thrillers, there's often a temptation to create a static character and build a long-running series around them. It's a proven formula, but I'm seeing that readers now want more—they need substance with their suspense. I loved discovering Emma Noble in *Fortunate Son*. She has this great combination of humor and awkwardness, but underneath there's the unmistakable makings of a hero. There's also pain lurking in her past. In this sequel, we explore those shadows together. *A Noble Sin* is about Emma's evolution. Readers want heroes who grow and change across a series, and that's exactly what Emma does.

You've had a number of careers such as jazz singer and salesman. Did your experiences with any of them help when developing the series?

Writing is much like jazz. It comes from improvisation and experimentation—freeing yourself to find something interesting in the space between. I listen to the sound writing makes, searching for the unexpected note that makes it sing. I strive for sentences that sound like music. And the thousands of sales calls I've been on? I'm not sure there's a better school for character development than that. I've learned how to read people—their tells, their contradictions. While jazz taught me rhythm and improvisation, sales work taught me human nature.

What do you think a good thriller has to do?

We all know the pillars of a thriller—pace, plot, and twists. But, for me, my favorites have a foundational character. Cliché characters beget cliché thrillers. But present me with a real person with human emotions that I care about and pull them into something dangerous and relentless? I can't turn away. I'm drawn to people who feel more human and less "larger than life." I love thrillers where heroes bleed on the page and evil leaps down your throat.



And a good thriller never cheats. No easy getaways. No deus ex machina that saves the day. I want to see a hero trapped in a locked box, forced to figure out their own escape. No mouse chewing on the ropes to freedom. The best thrillers are intelligent and complex. They make you think and feel something—deeper meaning with the mayhem.

How do you imagine readers at this moment will connect to *A Noble Sin*?

We're living through a time when heroes are falling from pedestals. Authority figures, institutions, people we trusted—they're being exposed as flawed or fraudulent. Readers are questioning everything they thought they knew about the world. Emma's story hits

that nerve directly. She discovers her father—her one hero—isn't the man she believed him to be. That's not just a plot point. That's the emotional reality many people are living right now. Who deserves to be on a pedestal? What happens when we realize they aren't who we expected? How does that change who we are and how we relate to the world? Emma has to grapple with what it means to be thrown completely off your axis. To rebuild your understanding of yourself when your foundation crumbles. That's what makes *A Noble Sin* more than just a thriller—it's about the very real experience of disillusionment and discovering that the hero you need might just be yourself.

When can readers expect the next Emma Noble book?

I'm deep into the third Emma Noble story. It will take readers from the Caucasus Mountains in Georgia to the Moskitia jungle of Honduras. What makes this one special? It revisits some of the evil from *Fortunate Son* in a way no one is expecting. This time the consequences are global, and Emma faces her most dangerous trial yet—a life-and-death decision that will change her trajectory forever. I can't wait to share what's next for Emma. For updates on upcoming releases, feel free to visit my website.

For more, visit booklife.com/bridgeman

Waterstones, WHSmith

Forty years after his crime, an SS officer is assassinated in Britain. Uncovering the truth involves the British police and Interpol and is hindered by politics.

Ice and Fire: A Suspenseful Thriller Set in



Hawai'i

Pat Dunlap Evans. A.M. Chai Literary. \$14.99 paper (320p), ISBN 979-8-9927090-2-5; \$4.99 e-book, ISBN 979-8-9927090-0-1

Amazon, Apple Books,

Barnes & Noble, Kobo

In this sequel to *Out and In: A Mystery-Thriller*, a lovely cellist and her investigative team join an FBI Hawai'i task force to find who's killing top astronomers on the Big Island.

Intercessor



John Still. Covenant Books.

\$16.95 paper (266p), ISBN 978-1-68526-038-5; \$2.99 e-book, ISBN 978-1-68526-039-2

Amazon, Apple Books, Barnes & Noble

In a spiritual journey

of terror and revelation, a cult chases ex-lawyer Jim Hampton through the darkest corners of the New Orleans French Quarter as a storm bears down on the city.

Morgan's Landing



Linda Griffin. The Wild Rose Press. \$2.99 e-book, ISBN 978-1-5092-6130-7; \$6.99 audio, ASIN B0F7J1WGPC
Amazon

Where is Julie Morgan? She disappeared on her way to school. Detective

Brady needs to find her before the worst happens, and he has a few suspects, including his own teenage son.



Pathways

Brian McHarg. Austin Macauley Publishers. \$12.95 paper (170p), ISBN 978-1-0358-7945-8; \$4.50 e-book, ISBN 978-1-0358-7946-5

Amazon, Barnes & Noble,

Waterstones, WHSmith

There were 13 of them, from all walks of life. They didn't know each other, but all had a common need: they were each desperate to escape the U.K.

Unleash the Fury: A Storm of Vengeance on



Eastern Sands

Joseph Paul D'Aquisto.

Joseph Paul D'Aquisto.

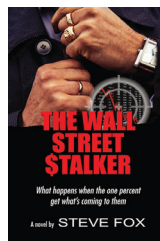
\$11.99 paper (180p), ISBN 978-1-0692878-1-6; \$7.99 e-book, ISBN 978-1-0692878-0-9

Amazon, Barnes & Noble,

Books-A-Million, Booktopia, Google Play, Indigo, Kobo, Waterstones

A 69-year-old ex-police detective seeks peace in Sri Lanka but finds a crime-ridden town, two deadly gangs, and a battle for justice, sanity, and survival in a high-stakes thriller.

The Wall Street Stalker



Steve Fox. Silver Fox

Communications. \$9.99 paper (304p), ISBN 979-8-3065-4471-7

Amazon

A sniper targeting the wealthy is chased down by a tenacious reporter,

and they fight it out inside a historic Wall Street church.

SF/Fantasy/Horror

Dark Device of the Great Chasm



C.B. Ash. Fabled Horizon

Press. \$9.99 paper (280p), ISBN 979-8-9926101-1-6; \$4.99 e-book, ISBN 979-8-9926101-0-9

Amazon, Barnes & Noble, Everand, Kobo

A race against time for a

relic of fantastic power. Tela Kioni must face the horrors of the Great Chasm before the Crimson Company gets the relic, unleashing a deadly secret.

The Tempests of Time (Ages of Malice #4)

Lloyd Jeffries. Buckminster Publishing. \$13.99 paper (346p), ISBN 979-8-9906209-1-9; \$2.99 e-book, ISBN 979-8-9906209-0-2

Amazon, Apple Books, Barnes & Noble,

IngramSpark, Kobo



A mysterious figure shows Emery blistering truths about God, Satan, and the future of humanity. Gaze into Merrick's mirror and be forever changed. An Amazon #1 bestseller!

Utopia



Jenny Ahmed. Prague Crown

Publishers. \$14.99 paper

(380p), ISBN 979-8-

9929541-3-5; \$4.99

e-book, ISBN 979-8-

9929541-2-8

Amazon, Barnes & Noble,

IngramSpark, Kobo

Dr. Delilah Dweck leads a group of esteemed scientists to create a new settlement on Mars. It was a one-way trip. They found old civilizations. Can Delilah make this new world thrive?

Romance/Erotica



All This Time

J. Clark. J. Clark. \$13.99

paper (420p), ASIN

B0F6NWDCJ7; \$2.99

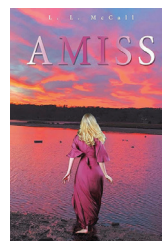
e-book, ASIN B0F29Q2RK1

Amazon

She's the preacher's daughter. He's the

criminal's son. Their love will bring their families together—or their fathers will break it apart.

Amiss



L.L. McCall. Authors'

Tranquility Press. \$14.99

paper (90p), ISBN 978-1-

964037-48-6; \$2.99

e-book, ASIN

BODG43W1C9

Amazon

Though identical, the

twin brothers were opposites. One's success bred envy in the other, turning their bond into rivalry. He wanted it all: his brother's life, wife, and more.

Courageous: She Will Not Let Fear Stop Her

Kahlani B. Steele. Kahlani B. Steele. \$14.99

paper (266p), ISBN 978-1-7635883-3-2;

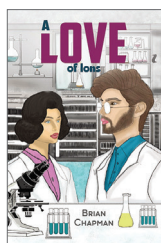
\$2.99 e-book, ASIN B0F3ZKCKK7

Amazon



Gun and Vin are captivated by Clark. Clark has a secret that she is ashamed of. How will they react when they find out? Triggers: self-harm, suicide, sex scenes, profanity, violence.

A Love of Ions



Brian Chapman. Austin Macauley Publishers. \$17.95 paper (268p), ISBN 978-1-0358-7815-4; \$4.50 e-book, ISBN 978-1-0358-7816-1
Amazon

In the 1960s, two gifted research scientists, both bearing emotional scars, have their lives disrupted by an intriguing project clouded in politics. How will it awaken their emotions and future careers?

Red Letter Day

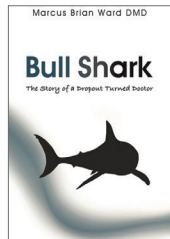


Christina Hicks. Austin Macauley Publishers. \$7.95 paper (64p), ISBN 978-1-0358-9055-2; \$4.50 e-book, ISBN 978-1-0358-9056-9
Amazon, Barnes & Noble, Waterstones, WHSmith

I walk alongside characters through their road of life watching how they navigate and prioritize their goals and aspirations. Life is a pilgrimage, including humorous anecdotes, providing a healing balm.

Nonfiction

Bull Shark: The Story of a Dropout Turned Doctor



Marcus Brian Ward. Gatekeeper Press. \$12.99 paper (164p), ISBN 978-1-6629-5823-6
Amazon, Barnes & Noble

Bull Shark is the compelling story of a high school delinquent who defied the odds to become a successful doctor. It straddles the line between memoir and self-help.

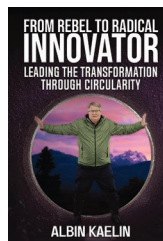
Emergency Pizza Ordering 911: Ordering without Annoying the Shit out of the Workers

Tricia Wood. \$10.99 paper (70p), ISBN 979-8-



3306-0850-8; \$4.99 e-book, ASIN BODJMHWWVF
Amazon, IngramSpark
My experience working at a pizza shop for 28 years, including funny stories, crazy rants, and some interesting facts about life in a pizza shop.

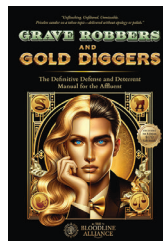
From Rebel to Radical Innovator: Leading the Transformation through Circularity



Albin Kaelin. Leaders Press. \$43.75 paper (242p), ISBN 978-1-63735-284-7; \$6.99 e-book, ISBN 978-1-63735-286-1

Amazon, IngramSpark, Kobo
Albin Kaelin's book embodies the core principles for a more environmentally responsible and resilient future. Redefine the approach to business.

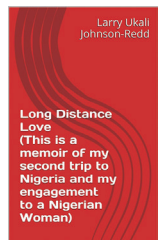
Grave Robbers and Gold Diggers: The Definitive Defense and Deterrent Playbook for the Affluent



The Bloodline Alliance. TBA Verlag. \$89.95 (444p), ISBN 978-1-0694253-1-7; \$29.95 e-book, ASIN B0F71Z4ZDK
Amazon, Apple Books, Barnes & Noble,

IngramSpark, Kobo
A tactical guide exposing financial manipulation in relationships, this book examines how gold diggers exploit marriage, divorce, and inheritance systems—and offers legal countermeasures to protect wealth from economic predators.

Long Distance Love



Larry Ukali Johnson-Redd. Larry Ukali Johnson-Redd. \$4.49 e-book, ISBN 978-0-9785772-7-8
Amazon

Long Distance Love is an autobiographical story of love and travel.

The Plan

Sandra O'Gwin. Austin Macauley Publishers. \$8.95 paper (86p), ISBN 978-1-0358-6815-5; \$4.50 e-book, ISBN 978-1-0358-6817-9

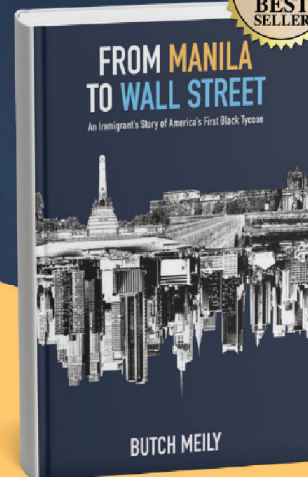
FROM MANILA TO WALL STREET

BUTCH MEILY

"An intimate look at the personal side of one of the most successful Black entrepreneurs of all time."

-Kirkus Reviews

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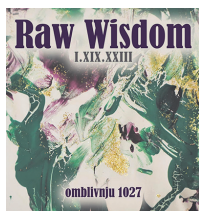


BARNES & NOBLE



Amazon, Barnes & Noble, Waterstones, WHSmith
The pain and memory of abuse last a lifetime. You can tuck it away, cry it away, drink it away, pray it away, but without Alzheimer's, you never forget.

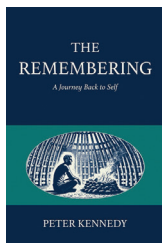
Raw Wisdom I.XIX.XXIII



omblivnju 1027.
WestBowPress. \$48.99 paper (216p), ISBN 979-8-3850-0250-4; \$4.99 e-book, ISBN 979-8-3850-0253-5
Amazon

An anthology featuring poetry, short stories, and artworks, offering a thought-provoking, inspirational, and wholesome experience suitable for readers aged 12 and older to appreciate and enjoy.

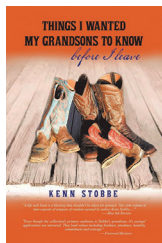
The Remembering: A Journey Back to Self



Peter Kennedy. Peter Kennedy. \$18.99 paper (222p), ISBN 979-8-9928672-5-1; \$6.99 e-book, ISBN 979-8-9928672-8-2
Amazon, Apple Books, Google Play, Kobo

The Remembering is a raw, honest journey from success to surrender—an invitation to embrace uncertainty, reclaim your truth, and awaken the parts of you long forgotten.

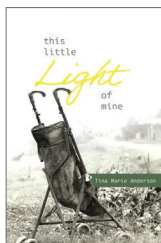
Things I Wanted My Grandson to Know Before I Leave



Kenn Stobbe. Page Solutions - Prowriters Network. \$9.99 paper (204p), ISBN 979-8-89633-019-6
Amazon
A collection of quotes, sayings, snippets, and observations that author Kenn Stobbe believes helped him to live a successful God-centered life.

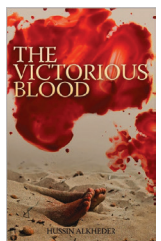
This Little Light of Mine

Tina Marie Anderson. Lantern Light Press. \$15.99 paper (302p), ISBN 979-8-9986125-0-3; \$2.99 e-book, ISBN 979-8-9986125-2-7
Amazon, Barnes & Noble, Bookshop.org,



IngramSpark
A luminous memoir of growing up in shadows, finding voice through truth, and choosing light—again and again—on the path to healing and selfhood.

The Victorious Blood: Will Show You What Happened In Karbala Thirteen Hundred



Years Before
Hussin Alkheder. Hussin Alkheder. \$14.99 paper (390p), ISBN 979-8-8140-8374-6; \$4.99 e-book, ASIN B092DYSF3V
Amazon

You will be taken into the heat of the battle of Karbal itself and there you will learn about the reasons for the epic struggle and the historical consequences which followed it.

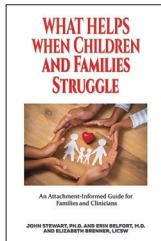
The Warrior Mindset



Stephen Michael Hardy. Primedia eLaunch. \$19.99 paper (254p), ISBN 979-8-89940-486-3; \$8.99 e-book, ISBN 979-8-89940-485-6
Amazon

This book shares Spartan-inspired tools to build resilience, discipline, and focus, blending ancient wisdom with modern strategies for strength.

What Helps When Children and Families Struggle



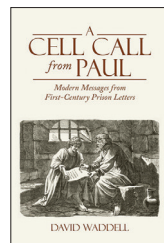
John Stewart. Austin Macauley Publishers. \$15.95 paper (216p), ISBN 978-1-0358-4214-8; \$4.50 e-book, ISBN 978-1-0358-4216-2
Amazon, Barnes & Noble,

Waterstones, WHSmith
For families and clinicians, this text offers a clear and helpful discussion of what to do to support strong connections and what to do when things have fallen off track.

Religion/Spirituality

A Cell Call from Paul: Modern Messages from First-Century Prison Letters

David Waddell. WestBowPress. \$13.95 paper



(148p), ISBN 978-1-6642-5742-9; \$2.99 e-book, ISBN 978-1-6642-5743-6
Amazon

The four letters Paul wrote while in prison reveal important lessons on how to renew our faith and break free from our figurative prisons.

Children's/YA

The Adventures of Mila and Ranger



Cornelia Benites, illus. by Daniel Morris. Purple Bookmark Print. \$9.99 paper (114p), ISBN 979-8-9987513-0-1; \$5.99 e-book, ISBN 979-8-9987513-1-8
Amazon, Barnes & Noble,

Bookshop.org

Mila thought her summer was ruined because her best friend moved away. Ranger was just what Mila needed to have an adventurous summer.

Beyond Australia



Lee Forrest. Lamp Light Press. \$14.99 (270p), ISBN 979-8-9916255-0-0; \$8.99 paper (270p), ISBN 979-8-9916255-1-7
LeeForrestAuthor.com,

Amazon, IngramSpark
A teen tries out Grampa's time machine and finds herself on Manhattan streets in 1872, living by her wits on a dangerous errand with help from a street-smart newsboy.

Big Thanks to the Best Mom and Dad Ever



Mowunmi Ade, illus. by Oliver Hunt. Prime Publishing Press. \$14.99 paper (38p), ISBN 978-1-965435-96-0; \$2.99 e-book,

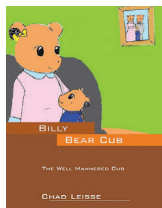
ISBN 978-1-965435-95-3

mowunmiade.com, Amazon, Barnes & Noble, Kobo

Big Thanks to the Best Mom and Dad Ever is a heartwarming book where Levi and Layla show love and gratitude to their

parents through stories, memories, and fun creative activities.

Billy Bear Cub



Chad Leisse. Outskirts Press. \$21.95 (24p), ISBN 978-1-4787-4565-5
Outskirtspress.com, Amazon, Barnes & Noble

Follow Billy and his mother as they have a day's adventure with her teaching and explaining to him how to act, talk to other people, and be safe while having fun doing it.

Bull & Bear Build a Bright Future with



Bonds
Craig A. Robinson. Nolyne Publishing. \$18.99 (32p), ISBN 979-8-218-49476-6
Nolyne.com, Amazon, Barnes & Noble,

Bookshop.org

Bull and Bear learn how bonds help build schools, parks, roads, and hospitals, teaching kids how saving and investing in bonds can build a brighter future for all!

Cyber Quest: The Digital Guardians



Ronn Koontz. Journeyonetechnetech. \$49.99 (168p), ISBN 979-8-9872538-1-6; \$9.99 e-book, ISBN 979-8-9872538-3-0

Amazon, Kobo

In a high-tech future where digital and real worlds collide, teen gamer Mackenzie Jewel leads a fearless team of tech warriors to defend both realms from rogue AIs and cyber threats.

The Excalibur Vow



Charlotte Bennardo, illus. by Grady Earls. Poolside Press. \$15.99 paper (290p), ISBN 978-0-9984992-4-6; \$2.99 e-book, ASIN B0F6RBSVGX
Amazon, IngramSpark
Blacksmith Wytan breaks a piece off

Excalibur. His vow to return it sends him to present-day England. A witch, a secret society, a lost heir, and time stand in his way.

The Food Lady



Ann Miles Sievers. Austin Macauley Publishers. \$10.95 paper (32p), ISBN 978-1-0358-5445-5; \$4.50 e-book, ISBN 978-1-0358-5447-9
Amazon, Barnes & Noble,

Waterstones, WHSmith

The food lady, so named by the animals, loves to feed them but does not want her prize roses eaten by Miss Deer. A kind raccoon tells her not to.

Jago: A Fractured Fairy Tale



Keith Austin. Keith Austin. \$12.99 paper (204p), ISBN 979-8-3164-6764-8; \$4.99 e-book, ASIN B0F2MYBWQF
Amazon, Angus & Robertson, Kobo, Smashwords

Life in a 19th-century slum is bad enough, but when Demelza Cotton and Jago Quinn find a baby dragon things get whole lot harder—and weirder.

A Musician's Recipes: Strung 3



Lucy Victoria Treloar. XlibrisAU. \$17.99 paper (56p), ISBN 979-8-3694-9370-0; \$3.99 e-book, ISBN 979-8-3694-9369-4
Amazon

Explore a collection of short story rhymes, where magic infuses the world. Author and poet Lucy Victoria Treloar offers an anthology that twists around riches, enchantment, mystery, and magic.

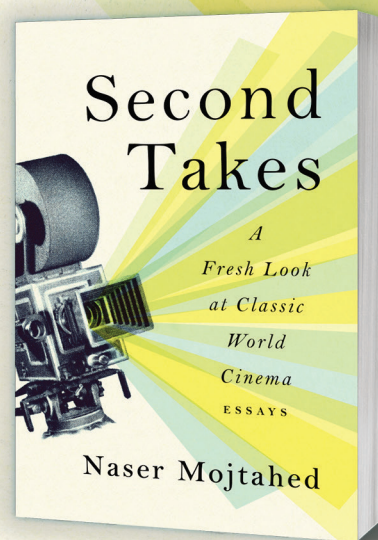
The Silent Punches: Misti and Milo



Mowunmi Ade. Authors Hike. \$9.99 paper (116p), ISBN 978-1-966556-29-9; \$5.99 e-book, ISBN 978-1-966556-30-5
mowunmiade.com, Amazon, Barnes & Noble, IngramSpark

In today's fast-paced world, Misti and Milo face struggles common to many youths, quiet battles too often overlooked by society through neglect, ignorance, or misunderstanding.

Available wherever books are sold, in ebook and paperback formats



An inspiring journey of film analysis, exploring hallmarks of classic world cinema in 50 detailed essays.

“Mojtahed’s essays dig into the work of filmmakers such as John Ford, Douglas Sirk, Nicholas Ray, Michelangelo Antonioni, Carl Theodor Dreyer, Kenji Mizoguchi, and Jean Renoir in informed but accessible prose. The reviews offer clear-eyed and persuasive looks at the films themselves, the directors’ choices and intentions, and their enduring impact. His sense of joyous discovery enlivens each essay, modeling an open-hearted, broad-minded approach to engaging with narrative art.”

—Publishers Weekly

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FICTION

⚡ EDITOR'S PICK

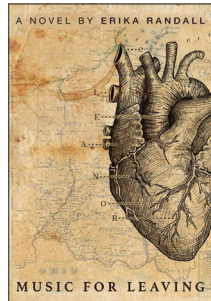
Music for Leaving

Erika Randall | IngramSpark

369p, hardcover, \$30, ISBN 979-8-9927964-0-7

Recently diagnosed with ALS, Eleanor Murphy hits the road on a trip to make amends with her daughter, Jillian, and to be with her sister, Isabel, for as long as she has left. What follows is a heart-warming story of life's brevity, the endearing bonds of family, and those fleeting moments of hope and love that beam through the spaces in between. Readers glimpse the journey primarily through Eleanor's eyes, though several chapters dedicate themselves to the perspective of inanimate objects Eleanor has collected or affected along the way—including the world itself, which mourns the impending loss: "I am trying to imagine myself without her. As The World, I am used to letting people go. It happens about 153,000 times per day."

Through stunning prose, emotive imagery, flashbacks, and in-depth moments of grounded presence, Eleanor reflects on her life and the future ahead. She finally



Gorgeous journey through love, family, and life's final moments.

Great for fans of Wally Lamb's *She's Come Undone*, Terry McMillan's *I Almost Forgot About You*.

arrives at a place marked by decisions centering on self-care, fleeing her old life—including her husband, Walter—to make the most of the time she has left. Randall pieces together the mosaic arc of that life through reflections on Eleanor's past relationships, current pitstops, and run-ins with an eclectic assortment of people she meets on the road, constructing an inner monologue as she considers her ALS diagnosis, the moments that fractured her relationship with her beloved daughter, and her failed dreams.

Randall tenderly explores motherhood, sisterhood, and the sacrifices women make for love and family in these pages. The more distance Eleanor puts between herself and her old life, the freer she feels, but the road to making amends with her past may not come as easy as she thinks. Still, she is determined to live a full life—one of family, love, and completion—for the first time, poignantly reflecting that "I will get back to the business of dying after I've found a life."

Cover: **A** | Design & typography: **A** | Illustrations: — Editing: **A** | Marketing copy: **A**

FICTION

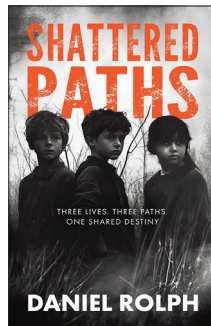
Shattered Paths: Unveiling the Hidden Truths of Foster Care and Neglect

Daniel Rolph

233p, e-book, \$4.99, ISBN 978-1-763-84000-3

The first in Rolph's Paths of Destiny trilogy follows troubled London youth Jack Hardy, just five years old when he first enters the foster care system, after his mother's fatal heroin overdose. Moving from group home to group home, with only a handful of loving placements, Jack's path eventually leads him to two lifelong friends—Ollie Holden and Emma Grant, both deeply familiar with "broken homes and abandonment." As Jack reflects on the close bond the three create, the many other young children who impact his life along the way, and the adults who play a role in his youthful journey, his harrowing tale of loss, grief, and found family becomes a powerful exploration of a broken system that "failed us time and again."

"The truth is, and I want you to know that I'm going to be as honest as possible in telling you my sordid tale, that everyone has a breaking point," Jack shares, as



Emotive novel exploring the pain and trauma of foster placement.

Great for fans of Janet Finch's *White Oleander*, Robin Benway's *Far from the Tree*.

he faces a seemingly endless string of abandonment, abuse, and rejection. His resilience, movingly crafted by Rolph, shines through even the darkest moments, playing out in scenes of an adopted sister he risks everything to protect, devoted adoptive parents who show him what a healthy family life can be, and moments where he's allowed to be an average kid, bonding with a family dog or managing a weekly allowance.

Drawing from his own experiences, Rolph gives powerful urgency to the bleakness and hardship that accompany foster placement. As people in Jack's life come and go—and Emma and Ollie navigate their own traumas—the constant yearning for home and belonging lingers as a flickering spark of hope for the future. Though Jack eventually realizes a life of connection and love, Rolph leaves this emotionally charged narrative open for more time spent with Ollie and Emma in future installments.

Cover: **A-** | Design & typography: **A** | Illustrations: — Editing: **A-** | Marketing copy: **A**

FICTION

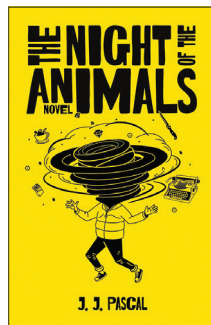
The Night of the Animals

J.J. Pascal

105p, e-book, \$9.99, ASIN B0F4Z78QXP

Pascal's grim satire debut revolves around journalist René, who's working a job he hates, trapped between a chaotic family and his own hundred-miles-an-hour mind. When René's mom dies—and leaves him a cryptic clue to a hidden inheritance—René sees a brilliant opportunity to finally get back at his nemesis of a brother, who robbed him of a treasure when they were young. He hires Pascal, a man who looks exactly like René, to cover for him at work—while René himself plots to retrieve a statuette that may or may not contain his family fortune. But the situation soon takes an absurdist turn, and René finds himself attending his own funeral. What, exactly, is going on?

The title of the book—drawn from the theatre group that Pascal, René's lookalike, has joined—is curiously apt for a story crawling with bizarre creatures and situations, some of which turn out to be dreams even as others end up being very much real. For the most part, the strangeness builds to an overarching atmosphere of dark



Atmospheric satire of regret, recklessness, and rebirth.

Great for fans of Kurt Vonnegut's *Slaughterhouse-Five*, John Kenney's *I See You've Called in Dead*.

absurdity, punctuated every so often by an incident or description that can feel jarring, inflating the tale's dream-like aura. Towards the second half of the book, the story veers into more romantic waters, as René finally discovers Hanna, a woman enticed by the urgency that accompanies his predicament—a woman who matches his own peculiarities.

Though the author constructs a generally dark and dreary atmosphere, the story's stakes lag behind, leaving readers wondering why René is so desperately chasing this family fortune, when his larger personality seems devoid of any precise sense of direction. His surreal, vision-like meanderings—dreams of powerlessness against roiling storms, a creeping awareness of time's cruel passage, hazy memories of a childhood spent on the outside looking in—mirror the novel's larger chaos, as René, in the end, experiences the rebirth he's always envisioned.

Cover: **A** | Design & typography: **A** | Illustrations: — Editing: **A-** | Marketing copy: **A**

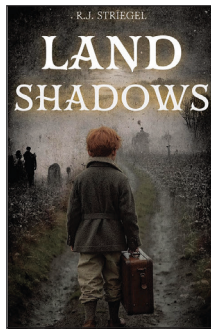
FICTION

Land Shadows

R.J. Striegel | OIN Publishing
331p, e-book, \$14.99, ASIN B0F5PBHCYC

In 1851, 10-year-old Murdoch McNeil and his family are forced out of their ancestral home in Scotland by those who hold legal claim to the land, compelling them to board steerage on a ship to America. After a deadly voyage across the Atlantic, Murdoch arrives as an orphan, facing the brutal reality that he must carve his own place in New York City. Embarking on his journey, he holds tight to his father's advice: "Land is everything. Do whatever you have to in this life to acquire it, and do whatever you have to in this life to keep it." Those words drive Murdoch's efforts in America, spurring him to astounding heights and devastating failures as he tries to assuage his past wounds with future success.

Murdoch's journey spans decades, generations, and countless miles, his sharp intellect and industry propelling him to become first a New York lawyer and later a rancher in New Mexico, acquiring land through shady business dealings that set him up for eventual heartache. Feeling that he's owed compensation for his family's



Compelling appraisal of cultural heritage, belonging, and identity.

Great for fans of Reyna Grande's *A Ballad of Love and Glory*, Carlos Fuentes's *The Death of Artemio Cruz*.

loss when he was young, Murdoch makes the decision that fraud isn't too high a cost to pay for his long-sought-after land wealth. Striegel capably compares Murdoch's childhood tragedies against his questionable decisions as an adult, rendering his belief that he must get ahead in life—no matter the cost—both relatable and saddening.

Throughout this debut, change is the only constant as Murdoch rises through the socioeconomic hierarchy of late 19th century America, marries his sweetheart, and becomes a father. Meanwhile, a parallel storyline follows Kewanee, a young Potawatomi girl whose fight to preserve her cultural heritage somewhat mirrors Murdoch's efforts to reclaim his. Through extensive research and a passion for history, Striegel reveals the dark side of manifest destiny and settlement of the American West, reinforcing the crucial message that cultural ties to land should not be broken.

Cover: **B+** | Design & typography: **A** | Illustrations: – Editing: **A-** | Marketing copy: **A**

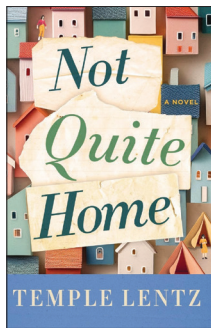
FICTION

Not Quite Home

Temple Lentz | Sibylline Press
296p, trade paper, \$19, ISBN 978-1-960-57389-6

Claire Anderson, a wealthy Oregon widow trying to recover from her husband Chris's death, wants to make a difference—but she isn't quite sure how to have the greatest impact. Rather than "patting [herself] on the back for being [one of the] open-minded, thoughtful, generous members of Portland's philanthropic elite," Claire questions the high-society attitude that just donating money alone is enough. When she runs into outreach worker Erica Ford at the annual fundraiser for Portland Promise—an agency aimed at helping unhoused individuals—the pair are a match made in heaven: Claire has the funds and Erica has the gumption. Together, they plan a transitional housing project to help 10 unhoused women make a fresh start.

Lentz's breezy prose carries a light touch, ensuring that this debut's weighty issues never turn too dark. Forceful, witty, no-nonsense Erica enlivens the proceedings with her devil-may-care attitude toward anyone who interferes with her determination to help those in need, and she is ably supported by Claire, who—though



Uplifting story of two women's efforts to help unhoused individuals.

Great for fans of Ishmael Beah's *Little Family*, Annie Weatherwax's *All We Had*.

attracted to quick fix solutions for a time—recognizes a deep need for sustainable action. Other characters who drive this feel-good debut include Marta, a naturalized U.S. citizen—born in Honduras—with an addiction problem thanks to a devastating work injury, and the eternally nosy Doug the Slug, a neighborhood homeowner near Erica and Claire's project, who

can't fathom why the women want to "bring a bunch of street people to live right across the street."

The story stays lively, with Lentz successfully portraying the many problems that can trigger displacement alongside a clear picture of the multi-pronged approach crucial to overcoming it. Both Erica and Claire must learn to compromise and stretch their comfort zones, but the payoff is worth it, and Lentz aptly illustrates "real people doing incredible work to make things incrementally better, even when better seems impossible."

Cover: **A** | Design & typography: **A** | Illustrations: – Editing: **A** | Marketing copy: **A**

MYSTERY/THRILLER

The Quantum Revelations

Stuart Heinrich | Endless Tree Books, LLC
474p, trade paper, \$21.99, ISBN 979-8-9902071-0-3

Heinrich offers an engrossing metaphysical excursion through the quantum realm to discover the meaning of life in this contemplative debut. As melting Arctic permafrost releases methane gas and accelerates global warming, clueless government officials want to blot out the sun and cool off the Earth—never mind that it will kill plants and possibly cause another K-T extinction event. Meanwhile, MIT physicists Skyler Wexler and his lab partner Zara's investigation of an oddity of quantum entanglement leads to jolting developments that will change and challenge humanity's understanding of the universe and consciousness itself, complete with warnings about the end of days.

Heinrich whisks readers through lengthy but clearly explained debates around quantum physics, artificial intelligence, faith versus science, transfiguration, and global climate mismanagement. While the plot compels, readers should expect page after page of scientific debate and discovery, but the conflicts are immersive and stimulating, exploring the biblical rapture, conscious AI, and broader sociopolitical terrors. While Michael counts down the days to the Lord's return, America's



Existential journey through the quantum realm, blending philosophy and science.

Great for fans of Neal Stephenson's *Seveneves*, Hannu Rajaniemi's *The Causal Angel*.

President Maximus maintains an iron grip on the news, entrenching himself more firmly into the end times landscape, and Zara transforms from scientist into something infinitely more powerful—and foreboding.

Skyler's continual search for objective knowledge grounds the novel's metaphysical elements in the scientific process, including consideration of a possible Theory of Everything. Meanwhile, characters engage in philosophical musings that hint at the book's deeper meanings, like the query "how do we really define life?," while debating whether greed could be hardwired into our DNA. Those moments—and Heinrich's rich, multilayered backdrop of existential food for thought—propel this story to a truly transcendental experience.

Cover: **A** | Design & typography: **A** | Illustrations: – Editing: **A-** | Marketing copy: **A-**

ROMANCE

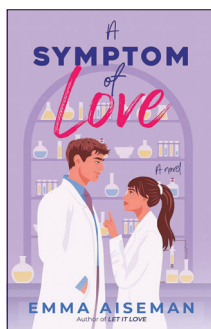
A Symptom of Love: GERI Labs, Book 1

Emma Aiseman

405p, e-book, \$4.99, ISBN 979-8-9917758-1-6

Romance gets a brainy twist in *A Symptom of Love*, a sharp and sassy first offering in Aiseman's GERI Labs series. The story kicks off with Eleanor Benjamin, an Israeli scientist determined to leave heartbreak behind. After a painful public breakup with her ex-boyfriend—an internationally-known drummer who left her reeling and disillusioned—she's shut the door on both love and music, devoting herself entirely to science instead. Her lab is her sanctuary and hypotheses are her solace; but en route to a postdoc position in Washington, D.C., Eleanor literally falls into the lap of a handsome stranger in a Spanish airport—nosebleed, leg injury, and all. It's an awkward, comical meet cute that sets the tone for a romance teeming with intellect, heat, and emotional baggage.

From their first encounter, sparks fly between Aiden and Eleanor. He quietly chips away at her defenses—even breaking down the walls she erects after learning he also plays drums, in a band during his down time—and seems, in every sense of



Steamy romance of science, smarts, and second chances.

Great for fans of Ali Hazelwood's *The Love Hypothesis*, Penny Reid's *Dating-ish*.

the phrase, too good to be true. When Eleanor discovers, her first day on the job, that Aiden is also her new academic mentor, their romance hits a momentary snag. But even in an environment where professional boundaries blur and emotions run high, Aiseman keeps the heat humming, as Eleanor navigates her new position, complicated attraction, and an encounter with her infamous ex at an academic conference in San Diego.

This is a skillful blend of romance and the high-stakes pressure of academia, and Aiseman lands characters who are smart, vulnerable, and authentically flawed. As Eleanor and Aiden concoct a fake relationship to prove to her ex that she's moved on, their feelings for each other begin to feel dangerously real, making this delightful mix of slow-burn tension, witty dialogue, and emotional depth both catchy and irresistible.

Cover: **A** | Design & typography: **A** | Illustrations: — Editing: **A** | Marketing copy: **A**

SF/FANTASY/HORROR

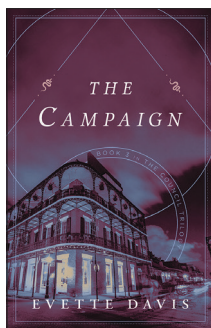
The Campaign

Evette Davis

272p, trade paper, \$17.99, ISBN 978-1-684-63332-6

Davis concludes her Council Trilogy with this fierce yet heartwarming finale, following *The Gift*. Olivia Shepherd, a San Francisco-based political consultant who hails from a long line of witches, is still reveling in her recent political victory against black magic wielder Stoner Halbert when she's tapped by campaign manager Dylan O'Malley to help Secretary of State Diana Chambers become the first female president of the United States. Diana—whose VP frontrunner is none other than Levi Barnes, the congressman Olivia steered to victory over Stoner—knows all about Olivia's special abilities: she's an empath, a novice witch, and has vampire blood in her veins. Those skills will all come in handy for Diana's assignment: shut down any supernatural mischief on the campaign trail to pave the way for an easy victory.

Davis populates this rousing adventure with eccentric fantasy characters as Olivia gathers her crack team—vampires William, Olivia's centuries-old lover, and his brother Josef; fairy Lily; time-walker and spirit guide Elsa; and voodoo priestess



Sophisticated fantasy pitting a novice witch against a demonic campaign manager.

Great for fans of Holly Black's *Book of Night*, Ilona Andrews's *Magic Bites*.

and Dylan's on-again, off-again girlfriend, Sabine. After a vision quest to commune with the spirits, Olivia learns she must step into her gifts and let go of her angst and regret, but the road ahead is treacherous: Stoner has summoned a demon that channels destruction, one that could induce massive environmental disasters and even civil war—sky-high stakes from Davis, once again, prompting Elsa's worry that “If [Stoner's] allowed to continue, he'll upend the balance between darkness and light.”

Davis skillfully intertwines real-world bureaucratic maliciousness with fantasy politics, a strong female protagonist, and creatures that can influence the fate of the world—and fans will relish the luscious fantasy trappings that populate this sprawling story, like Olivia's estranged father and his powerful Council, a group of supernatural beings that keep the world's democracies stable. Davis's enticing combo of courage, sorcery, and found family makes this an insightful and fun escape.

Cover: **A** | Design & typography: **A** | Illustrations: — Editing: **A** | Marketing copy: **A**

HISTORY & MILITARY

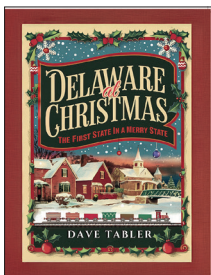
Delaware at Christmas: The First State in a Merry State

Dave Tabler

134p, e-book, \$9.99, ISBN 979-8-9921667-1-2

Tabler continues his study on the state of Delaware with this latest offering, after *Delaware from Freeways to E-Ways*. Here, he explores the history of Christmas in the First State, delving into the cultural, religious, and political forces that have shaped Delaware's holiday season through the years. Tabler starts with the influence of the New Sweden colony, established in 1638, that was responsible for one of the state's oldest structures: Wilmington's Old Swedes Church, where annual Swedish Christmas pageants still take place. From there, Tabler moves through an array of cultural contributions, ranging from German immigrants hanging Christmas stockings on the mantle to the importance of a Polish Christmas Eve supper to the entertaining history of sleigh bells (“the 19th century equivalent of a car horn,” he writes).

Christmas fans and history buffs will find much to treasure here. The history behind conventional holiday trappings—the first train sets under Christmas trees served as “a reflection of Delaware's industrial roots,” harvesting mistletoe was a dangerous undertaking, the late 1800s saw handcrafted tableaus as precursors



Rich chronicle of historical, cultural influences shaping Delaware's Christmas.

Great for fans of Ace Collins's *Stories Behind the Great Traditions of Christmas*, Brian Earl's *Christmas Past*.

to electric lights in outdoor displays—is fascinating, but more powerful are Tabler's observations on the role culture has played in Delaware's Christmas heritage. Black enslaved populations experienced starkly different holidays from the free Black communities, he writes, “reflect[ing] the broader struggle for freedom that defined African American life at the time,” and, from the mid-20th century on, Delaware's flourishing Hispanic population brought many changes to Christmas traditions—from the introduction of roast pork and tamales at Christmas dinner to revered religious celebrations like Las Posadas.

Tabler's rich historical chronicle is accompanied by reproductions of photographs, advertisements, drawings, and more, offering readers glimpses of luscious holiday table displays, Christmas pageantry, classic decorations, and fascinating scenes of holiday revelry. Whether learning the 18th-century practice of mumming or discovering Charles Heber Clark's witty portrayals of small-town Delaware life, readers will be amused and entertained by this rich blend of history, culture, and holiday cheer.

Cover: **A-** | Design & typography: **A** | Illustrations: **A** | Editing: **A-** | Marketing copy: **A-**

SELF-HELP

EDITOR'S PICK

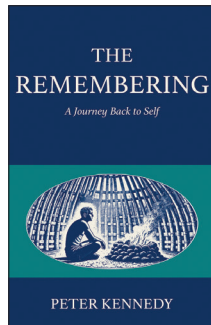
The Remembering: A Journey Back to Self

Peter Kennedy

224p, e-book, \$18.99, ISBN 979-8-9928672-5-1

The Remembering follows debut author Kennedy as he discovers that true transformation is about conscious evolution. The journey forward is anything but linear, he writes, and, through his writing, readers witness an unexpected course—a successful businessman striving to understand his own pain and frustration. From childhood memories and a profound love story to a life-changing experience in Brazil, Kennedy explores how, when, and why he chose to change, revealing that transformation is not about becoming someone new but about removing layers to reconnect with your authentic self, embrace vulnerability, and understand the true essence of your own being.

After years of feeling less than, dismissed, and overlooked as a child, Kennedy strives for professional perfection as an adult. But “no matter how many times I crossed the finish line, the feeling of attainment never lasted,” he writes, in a



Eloquent, inspiring path to rediscovering your authentic self.

Great for fans of Pico Iyer's *A Flame*, Cuong Nguyen's *The Journey to Yourself*.

sentiment that may feel achingly familiar to contemporary readers. This profound realization ignites his quest for change, driving him, at 45, to a temazcal in Brazil, where he experiences genuine pain and discomfort before seizing hold of a vision that teaches him “courage [is] not the absence of fear but the mastery of it.”

Kennedy's writing holds a pleasant rhythm that compels readers to dig deeper, as he translates his awakenings into life lessons, inspirational fare, and business acumen. He explains his varied efforts at healing—meditation, retreats, and psychedelic ceremony, among others—and, later in the book, pivots to applying what he's learned, often in hindsight, to his business dealings. As he wisely notes, “the paradox of seeking is that the answers we desperately chase often exist right in front of us.” Perhaps his greatest revelation is the need to wade through deeper waters to achieve genuine change; “in those moments,” he writes, “we have a choice—resist and cling to what we know, or surrender and allow something extraordinary to unfold.”

Cover: **A** | Design & typography: **A** | Illustrations: – Editing: **A** | Marketing copy: **A**

SELF-HELP

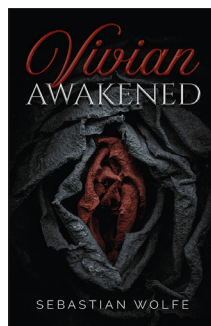
Vivian Awakened: A Couples Narrative of a Housewife's Evolution to Empowered Hotwife

Sebastian Wolfe | Loving Freely Books

368p, e-book, \$24.99, ISBN 979-8-990-15006-5

Wolfe launches his debut with an unconventional question: “Is it normal to want your wife to have sex with other men?” What follows is a deeply personal testimony of a couple's journey—navigating confusion, shame, and ultimately, enlightenment—as they explore this uncharted territory together. Wolfe tackles what is often considered a taboo subject with raw honesty, offering readers an intimate account of what it means to embrace desire beyond societal norms. Through his candid storytelling, he challenges the concept of monogamous marriage, advocating for a sex life shaped by personal fulfillment rather than external expectations, free from guilt or fear.

“My mind was opened to a whole new world,” Wolfe declares, pouring his heart out as he and his wife, Vivian, dive into their sexuality and push past societal norms in the name of self-discovery and empowerment. At first glance, Wolfe's account reads as almost selfless, but in a broader context his pleasure becomes central to



Bold journey of love, desire, and redefining intimacy.

Great for fans of Gracie X's *Wide Open*, Tristan Taormino's *Opening Up*.

the couple's story, respectfully nudging Vivian's evolving desires. Vivian herself chimes in, writing that she initially supported her husband to make him happy, but her actions revealed a deeper truth—she, too, was craving something more, even if she didn't fully realize it at first.

Wolfe bravely tackles a sensitive topic, but he's also smart about it—by including Vivian's perspective, he reassures readers that she, too, embraces their sexual awakening. He weighs the benefits and risks to a Consensual NonMonogamy lifestyle, examining, with vulnerability, the emotions couples can undergo when experimenting together, but his desire is clear: “to spark discussions, eradicate judgments, and encourage couples to embrace change while fostering deep love and respect.” The stock images sprinkled throughout prove distracting, and Wolfe's surprisingly explicit descriptions of intimate scenes is jarring at times, even within the book's context, but this is bold, thought-provoking, and definitely conversation-starting.

Cover: **A** | Design & typography: **A** | Illustrations: **C** Editing: **B+** | Marketing copy: **A**

SPIRITUALITY/INSPIRATIONAL

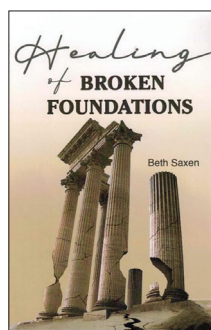
Healing of Broken Foundations

Beth Saxen | Genesis Publishing House

230p, mass market, \$17.90, ISBN 979-8-989-50261-5

Rooted in Christianity from a young age, Saxen provides readers with spiritual context for healing, forgiveness, and personal growth from the wounds of childhood trauma. She leans heavily on biblical scripture and personal anecdotes, acknowledging her early trauma experiences and drawing on those events to minister to others, while noting her passion at “seeing people come into wholeness and fullness of life and seeing the fruit and the power of the Spirit expressed through their lives.” Through exploring concepts such as discernment, God's love, and the complexity of relationships—both healthy and toxic in nature—Saxen's narrative delivers lessons in unflinching faith, determination, and inner strength during trying times.

Saxen expresses deep affection for her Christian faith, declaring that “our journey is not just about pursuing and receiving our healing or breakthroughs but also allowing the character and nature of Christ to be formed within us during our suffering.” Biblical stories such as the fall of Adam and Eve and God's promise to Abraham and Sarah serve as learning points, and Saxen parallels their events with



Inspirational blend of biblical scripture and personal experience, for healing.

Great for fans of Jen Wilkin's *In His Image*, John Beveré's *The Awe of God*.

contemporary tests of faith and temptations. Throughout, she emphasizes God's love as crucial, reminding readers that mistakes are part of being human—and “that it is only when we are in a safe place of feeling loved and valued by God that we are enabled to make a recovery and be transformed.”

Saxen characterizes roadblocks to healing as well, examining what she calls “ungodly soul ties”—codependency, adultery, “idolatrous” attitudes toward celebrities or fantasy figures—and touches on sexual intimacy, which she asserts God intended “to be conducted in love not lust,” inside of a “marriage covenant.” She softens that language somewhat in closing, expressing to readers that, regardless of their backgrounds and experiences, “He is the God who makes all things new.” Readers seeking Christian faith-based narratives will find Saxen's debut moving and impactful.

Cover: **B+** | Design & typography: **A** | Illustrations: – Editing: **A** | Marketing copy: **A**

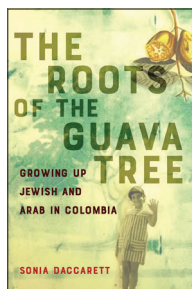
MEMOIR

EDITOR'S PICK

The Roots of the Guava Tree: Growing Up Jewish and Arab in ColombiaSonia Daccarett | She Writes Press
256p, trade paper, \$17.99, ISBN 978-1-647-42940-9

As the child of nonconformists, Daccarett was always going to be facing life as an outsider, and in this exquisite memoir she presents a vivid portrait of both these diaspora communities as well as a country on the verge of cataclysmic change. From 1972, when four-year-old Sonia and her family move to a new suburb outside the Colombian city of Cali, to 1986, when she leaves for college in Massachusetts, Daccarett examines the shift in Colombia from a hierarchical, post-colonial society to a nation fractured by narco-fueled chaos.

The adult Daccarett occasionally interjects a "later" to signal that she's providing context for specific circumstances, but it's her ability to recall events with the blinkered vision of youth that makes the narrative crackle. Wiling away a tropical day in their backyard swimming pool, Sonia suggests to her younger sister, "Let's play pelo largo," and they attach fabric remnants to their scuba face masks for flowing mermaid tresses. This idyllic moment captures Sonia's longing to have long hair like



Compelling memoir of daughter of Jewish, Palestinian parents in Colombia.

Great for fans of Ingrid Rojas Contreras's *The Man Who Could Move Clouds*, Ilan Stavans's *The Seventh Heaven*.

from Bethlehem, but when Sonia asks about religion, her parents proudly reply, "We are nothing." They raise their daughters in a secular household focused on intellectual rigor, compassionate empathy, and artistic expression. This cautious utopia and refuge crumbles because of fear (Colombia's prevalent violence) and the exhaustion of continually having to fight against the forces of tradition. "If you don't decide who you are, life and other people decide for you anyway," Daccarett writes, and demonstrates this truth throughout with precision and power.

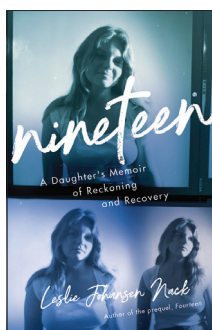
Cover: **A** | Design & typography: **A** | Illustrations: – Editing: **A** | Marketing copy: **B+**

MEMOIR

Nineteen: A Daughter's Memoir of Reckoning and RecoveryLeslie Johansen Nack
368p, trade paper, \$17.99, ISBN 978-1-647-42996-6

At 19 years old, Nack "became autonomous and had to figure life out," after her abusive father passed away. This heart wrenching memoir, the follow up to her previous work, *Fourteen*, chronicles her journey, starting in the mid-1970s, to work through that abuse and, in painful starts and stops, heal from the devastation it wrought in her life. Recognizing that her tumultuous relationship with her father and struggles with her mentally unstable mother caused her to seek acceptance and love from older men, Nack prizes apart a lifetime of chasing freedom and peace, from her relationship with her much-older family therapist, Simon, to her pivot to drugs and alcohol after her father's death in a plane crash.

Nack's reflections on a harrowing childhood are raw and incredibly vulnerable, probing her deepest emotions through personal poetry, compelling anecdotes, and a blunt reckoning with her troubled youth. Her path winds through multiple family moves, early high school completion attempts, a failed marriage, and an



Stirring account of resilience and healing from a harrowing childhood.

Great for fans of Elizabeth Gilpin's *Stolen*, Cupcake Brown's *A Piece of Cake*.

arduous odyssey of sobriety that eventually nets her a college degree and relationship success on the other side of healing, growth, and self-love. Nack's overarching sentiment—that "the primal need for parental love is a basic yearning"—beats steadily in the background of her writing, proclaiming the harmful patterns her childhood produced while also examining her resilience and, ultimately, forgiveness—of both herself and her parents.

Readers will be drawn in by this moving tale of childhood trauma and healing, as Nack grants them an intimate perspective on the conflicting inner battles of a young girl desperately crying out for love. The memoir culminates with a glimmer of hope and overcoming: "I have worked hard not to make the same mistakes my parents made," Nack declares, as she celebrates a devoted 35-year marriage and her own chance at motherhood, saluting her "pride at the life we've created."

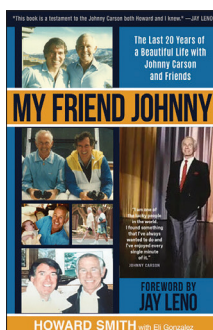
Cover: **A** | Design & typography: **A** | Illustrations: – Editing: **A** | Marketing copy: **A**

MEMOIR

My Friend Johnny: The Last 20 Years of a Beautiful Life with Johnny Carson and FriendsHoward Smith with Eli Gonzalez | Howard Smith Publishing, LLC
208p, hardcover, \$29.99, ISBN 978-8-9929940-0-1

This sweet, compact memoir blends a touching account of Smith's friendship with Johnny Carson—called John in private life—with some warm advice for living "a beautiful life," some drawn from the example of Carson's off-camera humility, graciousness, and philanthropy. After finding tremendous success at a small software company that soon was booming, Smith bought a home in Malibu in 1985, just four houses down from Carson, who would retire from *The Tonight Show* in 1992. Smith's first encounter with Carson, who defined the very role of talk-show host, came at a star-studded dinner where the host, aware of Carson's in-person shyness and Smith's "knack for making people feel comfortable," sat the two together. They hit it off as the talk turned to tennis. Smith offered Carson a standing invitation to use his court, and Carson called for a match the next morning.

Despite his \$25 million salary, the Carson who emerges in Smith's anecdotes of dinners, quips, yacht trips, and everyday interactions is thoughtful, at times



Touching memories of decades of friendship with Johnny Carson.

Great for fans of Ed McMahon's *Here's Johnny!*, Henry Bushkin's *Johnny Carson*.

reserved, a caring and generous friend as comfortable at diners as he is at Spago and La Scala. "John" let few get close to him—"For some reason, people don't always act like themselves when I'm around," he says in one poignant moment—but was "a stand-up guy" who flew to Nebraska to surprise one of his high school teachers on her 90th birthday.

Smith's intimate insights and brisk storytelling will move readers who miss Carson's presence in their lives; some stories are gently ribald, but all are written with love, even the showstopper about drinking too much and hitching a ride home with the sheriff.

Smith's breezy, episodic storytelling eschews analysis in favor of fond memories and moments of connection. As Smith covers the three times he saw Carson cry, what shines through is the feeling of easy trust and fellowship the two shared. Throughout, Smith models the behavior and demeanor it takes to put the guarded and famous at ease, as he shares other surprising encounters with presidents, singers, Hollywood stars, and more.

Cover: **A** | Design & typography: **A** | Illustrations: **B** Editing: **A** | Marketing copy: **A**

POETRY

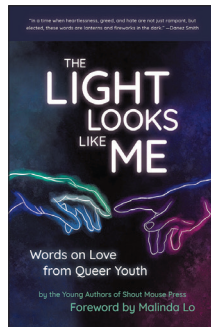
The Light Looks Like Me: Words on Love From Queer Youth

The Young Authors of Shout Mouse Press

193p, trade paper, \$14.99, ISBN 978-1-950-80783-3

In Shout Mouse Press's timely, vital anthology, 28 poets aged 13 to 24 come together to create "a book the world needs," inviting readers into the rich and complex inner lives of a set of young poets and their collective testimony of queer experience. Youth is a period of continuous change, as is the essence of queerness; as Oshun Baronville writes in "Ain't I a Woman: After Sojourner Truth," "some know how the transition from being to being takes place." Throughout, the young writers imbue this quality of being, of often living in flux, with urgent explorations of experiences related to love, grief, acceptance, and self-discovery.

"Not everything beautiful needs a name," Celeste writes in "KOI," as names are approximations, one-dimensional representations of ineffable complexity—and queerness, according to these precocious poets, has beauty unbound by language and simple category. Yet in the medium of poetry, the writers use the imperfect



Joyful anthology of selected poems from queer youth around the country.

Great for fans of Kwame Alexander's *Out of Wonder*; Mary Jean Chan and Andrew McMillan's *100 Queer Poems*.

tools of words to conjure wordless experience, like Maleski does in "Out-of-Body Mending," "on your tongue // i taste an image of myself // truer than sunlight," or Schobel does in her poem: "i hope the light looks like me // because you ignite me from the inside out."

For young queer readers, "The Light Looks Like Me," offers a balm for loneliness and validation amid an increasingly hos-

tile political climate for LGBTQ+ Americans, but it also functions as an instructive text for allies who seek greater understanding of this marginalized group. For these poets, queerness is an act of unboxing, of liberation from heteronormative precepts of love. It allows for what Karma z-s-f calls "an explosion of colors and endless combinations," or what Duy Nguyen describes as "honeyed brilliance." Illuminations like that abound, here. Whether readers are members of the queer community or not, this anthology teaches the universal lesson that "everyone is different ... And that's normal."

Cover: **A** | Design & typography: **A** | Illustrations: **A**- Editing: **A** | Marketing copy: **A**

PICTURE BOOK

EDITOR'S PICK

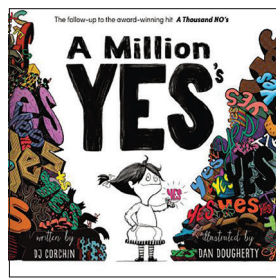
A Million Yes's: An All-Ages Story about Setting Healthy Boundaries

DJ Corchin | Phazelofz Company, LLC

54p, hardcover, \$17.99, ISBN 978-1-732-86463-4

Just as in his previous picture book, *A Thousand No's*, Corchin delivers a striking story that will inspire readers of all ages. Here, a young, unnamed girl devises a plan—her very own, special plan, developed with care and consideration. When a friend pops in and requests help, the girl is quick to answer, immediately gifting her pal what they need. That kindness soon leads to a string of friends—some sincere, others not so much—who request, plead, and cajole the girl for help. Longing to be a kind person, the girl offers her assistance each time—though that changes her original plan, until it becomes unrecognizable and, eventually, disappears.

This emotive story is a treasure of insight and wisdom, as Corchin guides readers through setting boundaries and learning that, sometimes, saying "no" can be a very good thing. Young readers will be entranced by the girl's colorful—and enormous—pile of yeses she starts with, a towering image of the resources she has available



Extraordinary rendering of the crucial need for self-care.

Great for fans of Gabi Garcia's *The Friend I Need*, Kobi Yamada's *What Do You Do with a Problem?*.

to execute her plan. But as that stockpile starts to diminish, the girl also grows smaller and more frazzled, her energy depleting as she sacrifices time, provisions, and love to others. Soon, she is left with a pile of nothing, faced with the all-too-familiar reality of not "feel[ing] like herself anymore."

Though a hard lesson to watch, the girl's deterioration is important: it allows her the chance to rebuild, from scratch, and illustrates why she must guard her yeses more carefully in the future. Dan Dougherty's striking illustrations brilliantly capture that spirit of determination, as the girl recreates a new yes and teaches her friends how to build their own—vibrant, multi-hued yeses that stand out in contrast to their black and white surroundings. The extraordinary emotion those graphics portray, combined with Corchin's critical reminder that taking care of yourself is the first step in caring for others, makes this a gem.

Cover: **A** | Design & typography: **A** | Illustrations: **A** Editing: **A** | Marketing copy: **A**

PICTURE BOOKS

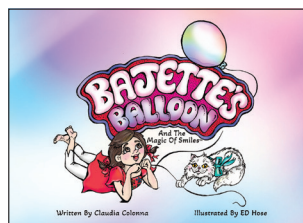
Bajette's Balloon

Claudia Colonna

46p, e-book, \$16.99, ISBN 979-8-9925857-1-1

Colonna's lively debut follows the warmhearted young Bajette and her magical balloon around a bustling city, as she searches for her missing cat, Rocco. While taking a break from plastering the city with wanted posters for Rocco, Bajette notices a clear balloon floating outside her lunchtime diner. When the balloon suddenly changes color to pink, she can't help but grab on, sparking an adventure of a lifetime as Bajette's irresistible balloon carts her around the city, netting her a new friend, Bobby, and helping her sprinkle joy on everyone she meets.

Bajette is a dynamic, upbeat protagonist who will charm readers of any age. Despite being on a mission to find the elusive Rocco, she's incredibly observant—and always takes time to brighten the days of the people she meets. An elderly couple on a park bench—celebrating their "first trip to the big city"—inspire Bajette to give them a picture frame from her backpack, to commemorate their visit; a wounded veteran with a broken wheelchair rouses her compassion and quick problem-solving skills; and she doesn't hesitate to help a group of volunteers trying to restore one of her favorite childhood playgrounds. Throughout her journey, Bajette's empathy



Compassionate girl with a magic balloon spreads kindness around her city.

Great for fans of Pat Zietlow Miller's *Be Kind*, Carol McCloud's *Have You Filled a Bucket Today?*.

is on full display and will motivate younger readers to follow her example.

Ed Hose's whimsical illustrations radiate with energy and light, layering detail after detail onto Bajette's grand adventure. From the kaleidoscopic shop windows on city streets to the hint of Rocco's tail on the newly-renovated playground slide, kids will relish the busy, entertaining graphics in this delightful book—and their adult readers will appreciate Colonna's timely message that looking out for others is a special kind of superpower. In the end, Bajette's kindness pays off, and she's rewarded with a rollicking festival full of friendship, gratitude, and fun. Colonna closes with a download link for stickers, so readers can "spread smiles where you go!"

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