

January 26, 2026

# booklife®

YOUR GUIDE TO SELF-PUBLISHING

39 New BookLife Titles Listed • 8 New BookLife Titles Reviewed

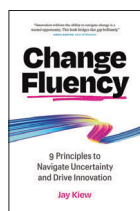
## Indie Spotlight

In this edition of our monthly thematic roundup of BookLife titles, we feature business and finance books as well as self-help titles.

Want to see your book featured? Check out the Indie Spotlight calendar at [booklife.com/indiespotlight](http://booklife.com/indiespotlight).

### BUSINESS AND FINANCE

#### Change Fluency

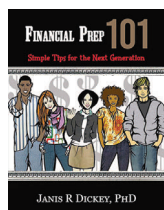


Jay Kiew

ISBN 978-1-77458-699-0

**Author statement:** "Part parable, part playbook, *Change Fluency* equips managers, executives, and leaders to discover what's possible, design the future, and differentiate from the standard when everything feels the same."

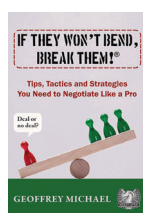
#### Financial Prep 101



Janis R. Dickey

ASIN B0DPMPZPG6

**Author statement:** "I started writing about my financial journey more than 50 years ago when I left home at age 17 with \$200. I wanted to go to college; however, my parents didn't have the money to send me. So I got a job, saved money, and launched my own financial story. This book is a journal of my odyssey, filled with stories from my family and clients."



#### If They Won't Bend, Break Them!: Tips, Tactics and Strategies You Need to Negotiate Like a Pro

Geoffrey Michael

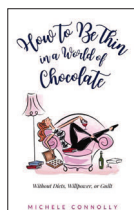
ASIN B0DKWDSN95

**Author statement:** "After graduating from the U.S. Air Force Academy, I became a program officer on several fighter aircraft and satellite procurements.

I later took my four decades of negotiating experience and developed training seminars that I presented around the country. Seminar attendees kept asking me if I had written a book about negotiation, and after several years of getting asked that question, I finally took the plunge and did it."

### SELF-HELP

#### How to Be Thin in a World of Chocolate

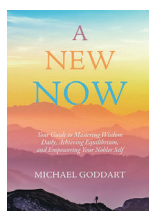


Michele Connolly

ISBN 978-1-76431-532-6

**Author statement:** "Forget fad diets, calorie counting, and joyless workouts. *How to Be Thin in a World of Chocolate* is the witty anti-diet guide that shows you how to look and feel your best without guilt, deprivation, or willpower you don't have."

#### A New Now: Your Guide to Mastering Wisdom Daily, Achieving Equilibrium, and Empowering Your Nobler Self



Michael Goddard

ISBN 978-1-951937-73-7

**Author statement:** "A close friend of mine was trying to reread *The Power of Now* and shared that he was just not 'getting it.' Months later, I asked my higher self what might be the next book for me to write. I began intuiting and noting wisdoms and keys to achieving equilibrium. I took a writing retreat to discover whether my notes were to be a book. As I reviewed them, I began writing and a book was born with my friend as the audience."

# 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.

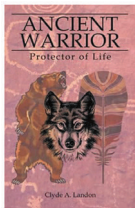


# New Titles from Self-Publishers

Booksellers, publishers, librarians, and agents are encouraged to look at the 39 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](http://publishersweekly.com/pw-select) for more information.

## Fiction

### Ancient Warrior: Protector of Life



Clyde A. Landon. Clyde Landon. \$10.99 paper (282p), ISBN 979-8-9860628-1-5  
Amazon, Barnes & Noble  
This heartfelt prequel blends wilderness

adventure, family devotion, Navajo tradition, and the unbreakable bond between a dog and the people whose lives he transforms.

### The Great Dane



Suanne Laqueur. Suanne Laqueur. \$16.99 paper (504p), ASIN B0G1TXG6SR; \$2.99 e-book, ASIN B0FVHR4S7X  
Amazon, Apple Books, Google Books, Kobo, Target, Walmart  
After his son's death, Liko

Greenman investigates a video game mystery. His efforts lead him to Danelaw Strong, an intersex man whose life story is the solution to the mystery.

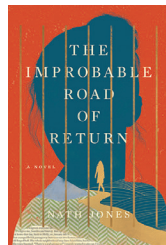
### However Long the Day



Kathleen Kelly. Artempo Publishing. \$14.95 paper (282p), ISBN 978-1-7347458-2-5; \$4.99 e-book, ISBN 978-1-7347458-3-2  
AbeBooks, Amazon, Barnes & Noble, Google Books

The novel follows two generations of women who survive hardship and loss and figure out a way through with dignity and extraordinary everyday acts of courage.

### The Improbable Road of Return: A Novel



Nath Jones. Life List Press. \$18.99 paper (308p), ISBN 978-1-937316-19-8; \$6.99 e-book, ISBN 978-1-937316-23-5  
Amazon, IngramSpark, Scribd

What is coming home now? *The Improbable Road of Return* is a reentry story about six weeks in the life of a woman named Jenks.

### The Spiral Archive

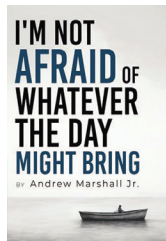


Pieter Hendrik. Pieter Hendrik. \$3.99 e-book, ASIN B0FCCHQFWF  
Amazon

*The Spiral Archive* is a literary war thriller set in a Nazi concentration camp, where remembering the past is a crime and storytelling is the only way to stay alive.

## Poetry

### I'm Not Afraid of Whatever the Day



Might Bring  
Andrew Marshall Jr.  
Authors' Tranquility Press. \$12.99 paper (118p), ISBN 978-1-964362-55-7

The book is the writer's poetic testament of life's journey and plight, expressed through similarities and metaphorical comparisons.

## Mystery/Thriller

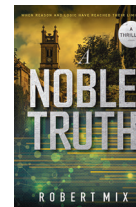
### 2125: The Hibernator: What If You Wake Up in 100 Years?



Fons Burger. Fons Burger. \$14.99 paper (166p), ASIN B0G2SYKT5Z; \$0.99 e-book, ASIN B0G2SFHQ2L  
Amazon

In 2125, Max Bloemendaal wakes from a centurylong engineered coma into a transformed world. As humanity rebuilds after chaos, he resumes his search for his missing wife, Felice.

### A Noble Truth



Robert Mix. Robert Mix. \$12.99 paper (252p), ISBN 979-8-9903318-2-2; \$5.99 e-book, ISBN 979-8-9903318-3-9  
Amazon

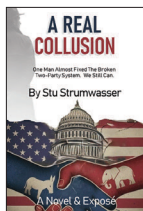
Disgraced psychic Noble Gareth returns to Scotland to help find a missing biochemist, and uncovers a conspiracy involving a powerful pharma company, a tech mogul, and a wary community.

### Psychologist



Diana Nuri. Diana Nuri. \$32.99 (378p), ASIN B0FQJ7T687; \$9.99 paper, ASIN B0FQJ7F7KC

*Psychologist* is a psychological thriller about a therapist whose professional insight turns into moral danger, forcing her to cross the line between healing, control, and justice.

**A Real Collusion**

Stu Strumwasser. Green Circle. \$24.99 (328p), ISBN 979-8-218-88645-5; \$9.99 e-book, ISBN 979-8-218-88576-2

Amazon, Barnes & Noble  
*A Real Collusion* is a

novel about the conspiracy between the Republican and Democratic parties. It is the story of a man who almost takes down that two-party system.

**SF/Fantasy/Horror****And the Hills Replied**

Sparhawk Hutchins. WP Lighthouse. \$13.99 paper (362p), ISBN 979-8-89518-436-3

Amazon, Barnes & Noble  
*And the Hills Replied* is an epic tale narrated by

Queen Elizabeth de Burgh, wife of Robert I of Scotland.

**Ashara: The Flame Heir of Kwenara**

Pieter Hendrik. Pieter Hendrik. \$3.99 e-book, ISBN 979-8-232-79743-0

Apple Books, Barnes & Noble, Gardners, Kobo, Tolino, Vivlio  
A flame-born girl must betray prophecy to survive the ashes of her mother's forgotten fire.

**Elaine**

Cor Smuts. Austin Macauley Publishers. \$12.95 paper (162p), ISBN 978-1-0358-7800-0; \$4.50 e-book, ISBN 978-1-0358-7801-7

Amazon, Barnes & Noble, Waterstones, WHSmith

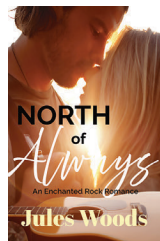
Thrown into a series of supernatural events and pursued by lizardlike creatures, alone and unsure when help will arrive, Elaine needs to figure out what is happening and stop it.

**Starseed**

Jack Brown. Bennett Media and Marketing. \$9.99 paper (308p), ISBN 978-1-957114-02-6

Amazon, Barnes & Noble  
A traumatized veteran rediscovers childhood alien

visions, learns he is a Starseed, and begins healing as new worlds and his higher purpose unfold.

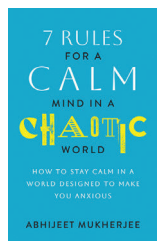
**Romance/Erotica****North of Always: An Enchanted Rock**

Romance

Jules Woods. Jules Woods Publishing. \$18.99 paper (518p), ISBN 979-8-9934857-1-3; \$5.99 e-book, ISBN 979-8-9934857-0-6

Amazon, IngramSpark

Some loves don't fade. They find you again when you're brave enough to stay. A new adult novel about a girl who found her voice, and the boy who finally stopped running.

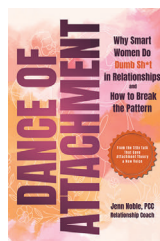
**Nonfiction****7 Rules for a Calm Mind in a Chaotic World: How to Stay Calm in a World Designed to**

Make You Anxious

Abhijeet Mukherjee. Guiding Pages. \$21.99 (200p), ISBN 979-8-9986333-1-7; \$13.99 paper, ISBN 979-8-9986333-4-8

Amazon, Barnes & Noble

A philosophical as well as a practical guide to countering the lingering noise in our heads, the constant worry and anxiety that plagues us.

**Dance of Attachment: Why Smart Women Do Dumb Sh\*t in Relationships and How to Break the Pattern**

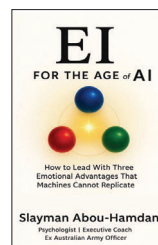
Jenn Noble. Lucky Book Publishing. \$9.99 paper (200p), ISBN 978-1-997775-13-3; \$0.99 e-book, ISBN 978-1-997775-11-9

Danceofattachment.com  
*Dance of Attachment*

helps women break unhealthy relationship patterns by understanding attachment, regulating emotions, and communicating with confidence so love feels safe and secure.

**El for the Age of AI: How to Lead with the Three Emotional Advantages That Machines Cannot Replicate**

Slayman Abou-Hamdan. Holistic Psychology Australia Pty. \$19.99 paper (156p), ISBN 978-



1-7644474-0-9

Amazon

*El for the Age of AI* shows how leaders stay calm, decisive, and human as AI accelerates work.

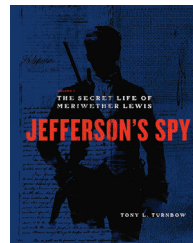
Drawing on psychology and leadership, it offers tools for clarity, courage, and connection.

**Hazel Climbs Mountains**

Christopher Vanier. Austin Macauley Publishers. \$29.95 paper (220p), ISBN 978-1-0358-9040-8; \$4.50 e-book, ISBN 978-1-0358-9042-2

Amazon, Barnes & Noble, Waterstones, WHSmith

How a cerebral palsied person can battle their way up in life—education, career, partner—against all odds, but with the help of those who love her.

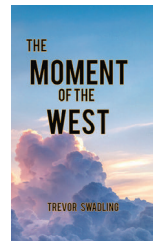
**Jefferson's Spy: The Secret Life of Meriwether Lewis**

Tony L. Turnbow. Tony L. Turnbow. \$34.99 (440p), ISBN 978-1-7362608-3-8; \$29.99 paper, ISBN 978-1-7362608-5-2

Amazon, Barnes & Noble, IngramSpark,

Landmark Booksellers

Thomas Jefferson enlisted his neighbor Meriwether Lewis as his spy from the boy's teenage years. The famed explorer's mysterious death is one of the great American mysteries.

**The Moment of the West**

Trevor Swadling. Swadling Press. \$11.99 paper (118p), ISBN 978-0-6457954-0-0; \$5.99 e-book, ISBN 978-0-6457954-1-7

Amazon

Discover how the West can navigate its current challenges and move towards a more cohesive and enlightened future.

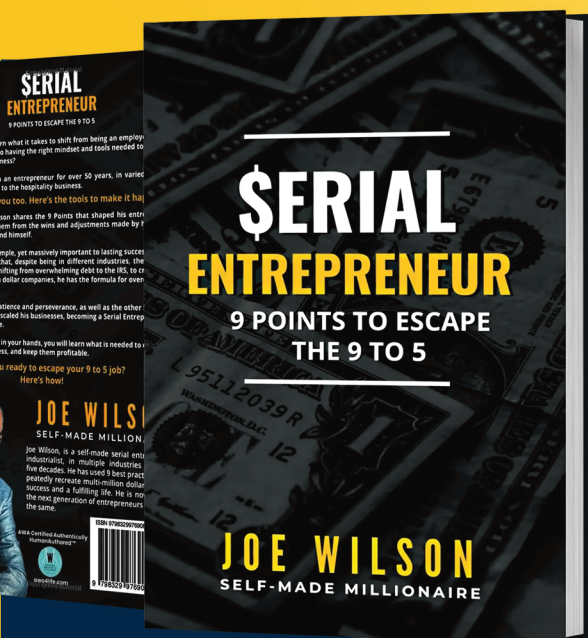
**Nulling Out**

Cheryl Jack. Piquin Press. \$27.95 paper (166p), ISBN 979-8-9999084-3-8; \$9.95 e-book, ISBN

# Transform Your Business, Transform Your Life

Joe Wilson

Empower Your Entrepreneurial  
Journey with Proven Strategies



## \$erial Entrepreneur

### 9 Points To Escape The 9 to 5

This business book is a vital, eye-opening guide for budding entrepreneurs searching for a roadmap to success as well as seasoned business owners craving a fresh perspective.

- Are you ready to conquer your fears and become the entrepreneur you desire to be?

Do you want to see what you may be missing, overlooking or forgetting that could be holding your business back from the next level of success and profits?

- Do you want a transparent and transformative mentorship experience in 9 bite-sized, actionable steps?

### You've found it!

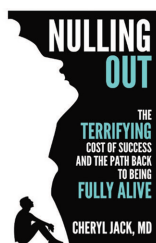
In *Serial Entrepreneur: 9 Points To Escape The 9-5*, Joe Wilson shares his unparalleled expertise gained through years of hard work, adjustments and victories. Discover the 9 P's of Joe's entrepreneurial journey as he unveils his vital lessons for building and scaling multiple thriving businesses.

The 9 P's are just what aspiring entrepreneurs and seasoned business owners alike need to excel, as Joe did through his numerous successful ventures, and connections with major corporations such as Marriott, PepsiCo and Golden Corral.

GET YOUR COPY NOW!

visit my website: [www.joewilsongroup.com](http://www.joewilsongroup.com)





979-8-9999084-1-4  
Amazon, IngramSpark  
*Nulling Out* names the cause and the solution to high-achiever emptiness and clears the diagnostic confusion. It's your path back to being fully alive. Includes downloadable workbook.

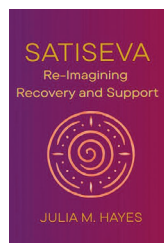
### Own the Insight: Turn First-Party Data into Revenue Faster Than Your Competition



**Can React**  
Lisa L. Fagen. Fagen Omni Enterprises. \$24.99 paper (352p), ISBN 979-8-9930038-1-8; \$9.99 e-book, ISBN 979-8-9930038-0-1  
Amazon, IngramSpark

*Own the Insight* is a practical guide to building a first-party data advantage, connecting traditional and digital touchpoints, and turning consumer signals into smarter marketing decisions.

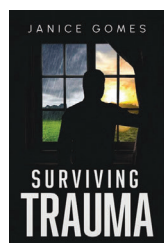
### SatiSeva: Re-Imagining Recovery and Support



Julia M. Hayes. Souls Center Spokane. \$21.99 paper (472p), ISBN 979-8-9927866-0-6; \$9.99 e-book, ISBN 979-8-9927866-1-3  
Amazon, IngramSpark

An essential resource for anyone seeking to understand the negative habits and compulsive behaviors associated with the stressors and trauma of being human.

### Surviving Trauma



Janice Gomes. Authors' Tranquility Press. \$19.99 paper (176p), ISBN 978-1-967776-82-5  
Amazon

This book shares true stories of trauma, showing how anyone can face pain, and offers practical steps toward healing, hope, and emotional freedom.

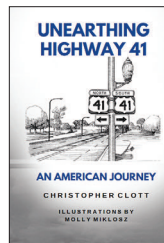
### Try-N-Find-Us



Frederic Buse. Authors' Tranquility Press. \$14.99 paper (136p), ISBN 978-1-968750-40-4  
Amazon  
Newlyweds trade town life for a hidden country home and face

challenges, surprises, and joy. A heartfelt blend of memoir and homesteading as they build a life off the beaten path.

### Unearthing Highway 41: An American Journey



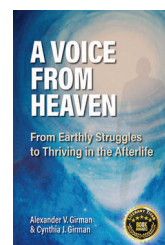
Journey  
Christopher Clott. Red Bicycle Books. \$48.99 paper (904p), ISBN 979-8-9890447-3-3  
highway41.org  
The book is about people and places along

Highway 41.

### Religion/Spirituality

#### A Voice from Heaven: From Earthly Struggles to Thriving in the Afterlife

Cynthia Girman, illus. by Stefan Senna. Wings of Peace Press. \$19.99 paper (230p), ISBN 979-8-9882109-1-7; \$9.99 e-book, ISBN 979-8-



9882109-2-4  
Amazon, IngramSpark  
A son across the veil shares mind-boggling revelations about what happens when we die, what Heaven is like, and why we are here. Discover astonishing secrets everyone wants to know.

### Children's/YA

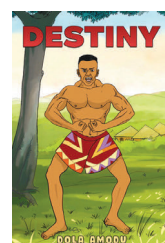
#### Beautiful Shadows



Jonathan G. Alterio.  
Jonathan Gioele Alterio. \$14.99 paper (252p), ISBN 979-8-218-80431-2; \$9.99 e-book, ASIN B0FL3N1G4Z  
Amazon

A city is enveloped in terror caused by crime syndicates cooperating with corrupt public officials. A secretive organization is formed to save the victims but things go very wrong.

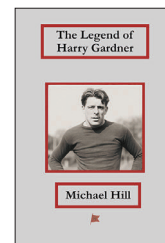
#### Destiny



Dola Amodu. Austin Macauley Publishers. \$19.95 paper (296p), ISBN 978-1-0358-5898-9; \$4.50 e-book, ISBN 978-1-0358-5899-6  
Amazon, Barnes & Noble, Waterstones, WHSmith

Fabunmi's strength and fearlessness took him to the wilderness to fight the fake god, Shango. His triumph in liberating his people earned him a high place alongside Kabiyesi (the King).

#### The Legend of Harry Gardner



Michael Hill. Victura Publishers. \$11.99 paper (112p), ASIN B0GCCLFVXY; \$2.99 e-book, ASIN B0G7Z2F3WP  
Amazon  
*The Legend of Harry Gardner* is about the

friendship between two college friends: Harry Gardner, a celebrated football hero, and Peabo Elliot, a shy, aspiring sports writer.

#### The Phantom Account: The Fight Against a Digital Monster

Nora Flanders. Austin Macauley Publishers. \$8.95

**Socially Bookish?**

Get your daily dose of literary love and moments that matter by following PW on Instagram

Find Us @publisherswkly

**VIRTUAL**  
JANUARY 30, 2026



**ibpa + booklife.**

# BOOTCAMP

for Author Publishers  
(Self-Published & Hybrid-Published Authors)

## The New Author Opportunity

Keynote ★ Presentations ★ Networking

*Opening Keynote:*  
*The New Author Opportunity*  
Jane Friedman & Russell Nohelty



*Business Model Basics*  
Alesha Brown



*Technology & Tools for  
Your Publishing Business*  
George Walkley



*Editing and Design Essentials*  
JuLee Brand



*Driving Demand through Branding  
& Community Building*  
Andrew Newman



*Vetting Your Book*  
Alan Scherstuhl, Michelle Schingler,  
Hannah Jacobson



*Market Strategies by Channel*  
Angela Engel and Brooke Warner



*Closing & Community Sessions*  
Courtney Kelly, Michael C. Higgins,  
Trevor Wiltzen



**LEARN MORE**

[bit.ly/BootCampAuthorPublishers26](https://bit.ly/BootCampAuthorPublishers26)



Most children wish every day was Christmas Day.

## Be careful what you wish for.

Jim Sutton and his family lived that very scenario when they moved into a year-round Christmas Theme park. They soon find out its not all fun and games



“What gives the book its power, however, is the autobiography that resonates behind every page....His descriptions of Vermont at its most beautiful, and later, at its most dangerous, merit reading again and again.”

- Laura C. Stevenson, author of Liar From Vermont

A Novel by  
**Kevin Stone**  
onionringlovers.com

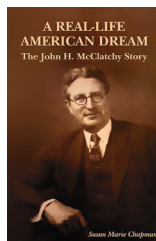


GARRETT  
COUNTY  
PRESS



paper (72p), ISBN 978-1-0371-0932-4; \$4.50  
e-book, ISBN 978-1-0371-0933-1  
Amazon, Barnes & Noble, Waterstones, WHSmith  
Emma's world collapses when a fake Instagram account exploits her identity. Battling harassment, betrayal, and broken justice systems, she fights a relentless digital predator in this harrowing novel based on a true story.

### A Real Life American Dream



Susan Marie Chapman. The Gourmet Dog. \$12.99  
paper (56p), ISBN 979-8-9922223-9-5; \$3.99  
e-book, ASIN B0G6QG1LS  
Amazon, Barnes & Noble, Bookshop.org

The great life saga of a young poor boy who grew up to be one of the most successful businessmen of his time.

### Somos America: Pequeños Testigos,



### Grandes Momentos (Bilingual)

Raynela A. Calderon, illus. by Maria Florencia De Luca. Cayena Press. \$15.99 paper (48p), ISBN 978-1-955328-29-6; \$4.99 e-book,

ASIN B0G3Z2MXTG

Amazon, Barnes & Noble, IngramSpark  
A lyrical and visually stunning bilingual children's book brings 250 years of U.S. history to life in a powerful tribute to America250.



### The Thin Door

Rho Weber Mack, illus. by Lisa Kerans. Iceforge Press. \$15.99 paper (324p), ISBN 978-0-9915072-2-1; \$1.99 e-book, ISBN 978-0-9915072-4-5

Amazon, Barnes & Noble  
Sophomore Ramie plays two versions of her life. In one, nearly homeless, she survives on math skills and snark. In the other version, her identity is limitless until truth sets a trap.

### The Tiger and the Pomegranate: A Magical Journey through Southeast Asia



Jean T. Fauber, illus. by Maria Ku. Jean T. Fauber. \$9.99  
paper (146p), ISBN 979-8-218-79326-5; \$2.99  
e-book, ISBN 979-8-218-79327-2

Amazon

Nate received a glass ball from Indonesia and a changing map of Southeast Asia for his birthday. He must discover all the magic within the glass ball to outsmart dragons and dinosaurs.

### To Never See Heaven

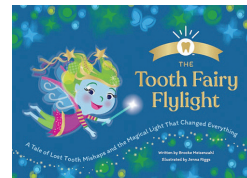


Garrett Garland. Publify Publishing. \$25.95 (390p), ISBN 978-1-960903-60-0; \$16.95 paper, ISBN 978-1-960903-59-4

Amazon, Barnes & Noble, Santa Cruz Book Shop

Antony Shrader leaves a life of privilege, battling internal trauma and turmoil as a young gay adult to eventually find peace, love, and acceptance.

### The Tooth Fairy Flylight



Brooke Meisenzahl, illus. by Jenna Riggs. Brooke Meisenzahl. \$11.99 (30p),

ISBN 979-8-218-09193-4

ToothFairyFlylight.com, Amazon

A magical story that reveals where the Tooth Fairy lives, how she knows when a tooth is lost, and how kids help signal her using the glowing Flylight.

### Who Are We? (Spanish-English)



Anneke Forzani, illus. by Maria Russo. Language Lizard. \$16.95 paper (24p), ISBN 978-1-63685-018-4

Language Lizard,

Amazon, IngramSpark

Promotes acceptance and inclusion by helping children understand and appreciate the diversity in our community. This bilingual book is available in over 40 languages.



BookLife Reviews are paid reviews of independently published books. A lightning bolt (⚡) indicates an Editor's Pick, a book of outstanding quality.

## MYSTERY/THRILLER

EDITOR'S PICK

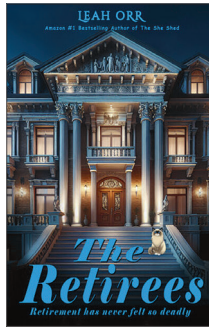
### The Retirees: Retirement Has Never Felt So Deadly

Leah Orr

302p, trade paper, \$14.99, ISBN 979-8-991-04203-1

Murder, mayhem, and mirth converge in this darkly comic mystery set in The Ocean's Edge—an upscale Florida retirement community where no secret stays buried for long. Through alternating perspectives, Orr (*The She Shed*) introduces an unforgettable cast of aging eccentrics haunted by regret, longing, and guilt. Diana, a 74-year-old sugar heiress forced into retirement, rebuilds her life after public disgrace; Theo, a self-aware murderer, seeks moral absolution; and Mr. Anderson, a house cat with a detective's eye, observes human folly with sardonic precision. Together, they animate a witty meditation on mortality, morality, and second chances, wrapped in irresistible humor and suspense.

When Diana joins a group of retirees-turned-amateur sleuths investigating the cold case of a nine-year-old's disappearance, Orr transforms parody into poignancy.



*Spirited mystery proving life after retirement is anything but dull.*

Great for fans of Richard Osman's *The Thursday Murder Club*, Deanna Raybourn's *Killers of a Certain Age*.

Tarot readings, visits from "the other side," and offbeat "research" blur the line between the rational and supernatural. Beneath the humor, Orr probes the paradox of aging—the tension between decline and rediscovery. The Ocean's Edge itself becomes both sanctuary and cage, where yoga classes, themed parties, and disco shindigs disguise existential isolation. At times, the humor edges into excess, but exuberance is part of the novel's charm.

Orr's dialogue-driven prose sparkles with wit and theatrical energy. Mr. Anderson's barbed commentaries, Theo's confessional introspection, and Diana's mixture of grace and grit create a polyphonic rhythm that merges comedy and dread, transforming the whodunit framework into a nuanced study of aging, complicity, and reinvention. Ultimately, *The Retirees* celebrates courage in life's final act, proving that growing old can still mean raising a little hell.

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

## MYSTERY/THRILLER

EDITOR'S PICK

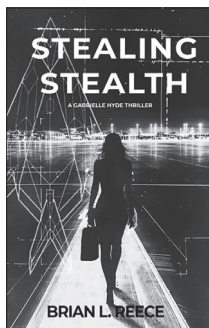
### Stealing Stealth

Brian L. Reece | Waffle Ink Press

468p, e-book, \$4.99, ISBN 978-1-969584-00-8

The Cold War comes to vivid life in Reece's thriller debut, driven by a volatile partnership between loyal CIA officer John Olson and legendary thief Gabrielle Hyde. In the mid-1970s, America and the Soviet Union are locked in a race for dominance, and President Carter's negotiations to expand the Strategic Arms Limitation Talks are ramping up. When rumors surface that the revolutionary Stealth Fighter program has been compromised by a mole, Olson is pulled into a high-stakes investigation led by presidential advisor William Durbin. Tasked with uncovering the operative inside Lockheed's top-secret facility before the Soviets seize the advantage, Olson is paired with the infamous Hyde—who treats crime as evolutionary art.

The novel's momentum rests on the uneasy collaboration between Olson, Hyde, and Andrea Miles, the lead engineer whose life's work on the Stealth Project is



*Sharp thriller with heightened Cold War tone.*

Great for fans of David McCloskey's *Damascus Station*, R.J. Patterson's *King of Queens*.

suddenly at risk. Throughout their mission, Hyde pushes for unconventional methods while Olson clings to procedure. Meanwhile, Sasha Morozov adds a chilling edge as a KGB antagonist. While Olson's instinct for subtle patterns makes him Hyde's equal, the case forces him to confront the fragility of loyalty, and,

through that daunting perspective, Reece turns the Stealth program into a lens on ambition, asking whether technological leaps make us safer or more exposed.

What begins as a hunt for the mole unravels into a labyrinth of double-bluffs, hidden agendas, and long-buried secrets. Reece's background in military intelligence gives the novel authenticity, but the interplay of characters drives its force. The action is sharp, the briefing-room politics tense, and the heist sequences cinematic. *Stealing Stealth* proves that the most dangerous battleground isn't the Cold War—it's the space between what people are ordered to do and what they're willing to become.

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

## SF/FANTASY/HORROR

### Axiom of the Indomitable Human Spirit

Josias Mibzstarus

172p, trade paper, \$20, ISBN 978-1-969-45800-2

Celebrating the human spirit for its capacity for "enduring and triumphing over adversity," this compact apocalyptic saga centers the battle against Lucifer himself, as he sends demon knights, hellhounds, and the Great Dragon, Babylon, to take over the world with evil and stamp out any light, hope, or humanity. In the face of these terrors, people's faith and strength prove not so easily overpowered—and not just because we've got mech weapons on our side. Two military families unite to wage war against Lucifer and his minions as infernal war comes to American soil. Led by their father, Eli, brothers Josias, James, and Biggs—along with other military comrades and some "defiant" women—devise a plan to defeat Babylon and Lucifer, no matter the personal cost.

Set in city streets, underground tunnels, and even Heaven and Hell, the tale emphasizes resilience, faith, and collective resistance, as the heroes' "shared commitment to resist the forces of darkness," like fire in the darkness, warms



*Compact epic of Lucifer's invasion and humanity's heartening resilience.*

Great for fans of Ted Dekker, Chuck Black.

and spreads. Mibzstarus brings invention and feeling to the briskly paced conflict, detailing how Lucifer and his forces wreak havoc and plunge the human world into darkness. The story's heart, however, is not in the tortures of Hell but in the courage of humanity.

The power of this vision, though, is undercut by prose that tends toward detached summarization rather than fully dramatized scenes; the storytelling is mostly declarative—"Forming a battle formation, they unleash their armaments at Babylon"; "Despite her fear and uncertainty, she knows she cannot let herself be swayed by the temptations of the demon knight"—with repetitive sentence structures and minimal dialogue or lived-in detail. Still, readers will find inventive gusto in this depiction of destruction and evil, where beasts unleash "miniature fireballs, molten flames, and searing beams of fire" and a fiend's eyes reveal "malevolent satisfaction" as it "feasts" on "raw meat with savage gusto." More crucially, Mibzstarus's belief in humanity's better angels is heartening.

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

## SF/FANTASY/HORROR

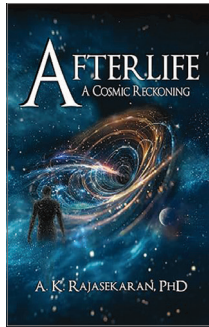
**Afterlife: A Cosmic Reckoning**

A.K. Rajasekaran | Photon Publishing

314p, e-book, \$15.99, ISBN 979-8-998-54390-6

With a heartening glimpse into the “Radiant Realm” after death, Rajasekaran presents a pair of cosmic-but-humane fictions that, with welcome warmth, blend two instructive narrative approaches: parables about justice and injustice here on Earth, and upbeat imaginings of the universal justice that may await us beyond. A hit-and-run driver may seem to escape legal consequences after recklessly causing deaths, and a corrupt politician may shape our lives to the profit of himself and arms manufacturers without ever facing public accountability—instead, he eventually dies beneath stars that remain “indifferent to the fleeting ambitions of men.” In this telling those dispiriting incidents do not mean that these characters have escaped a reckoning. Rajasekaran imagines souls taking one of two “passes” after death on Earth: “The Red Pass signifies a soul’s descent into a realm of reckoning,” while the Green “leads to a place of tranquility and enlightenment.”

The storytelling is empathetic, even soothing, despite narratives that feature



*Heartening fictions exploring the afterlife, cosmic justice, and how to live better on Earth.*

**Great for fans of David Eagleman's *Sum*.**

murder, pandemics, the manipulation of the public, and other terrors. Offsetting these are tales that celebrate the rippling impacts of good deeds across decades and a rousing reminder of the heroism of the scientists who develop vaccines in the face of outbreaks. Characterization is thin, in the parable mode; sometimes, Rajasekaran indulges in lyrical flights, but mostly the tales move briskly. Rajasekaran encourages readers to think beyond this mortal sphere for how to understand the horrors that humanity visits upon itself, laying out an upbeat cosmology—the final chapters find Einstein, Bose, Fermi, and Newton, someplace beyond our reckoning, discussing concepts like the persistence of energy and “cosmic purification.”

Such material in spiritual books often tends toward the didactic and dogmatic, but Rajasekaran smartly presents it all as possibilities, a fresh way to understand it all, drawing on established spiritual traditions but not fully indebted to any. Each story ends with reflection questions that probe readers' own assumptions and conclusions and encourage the development of virtues; these are unusually incisive.

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

## FICTION

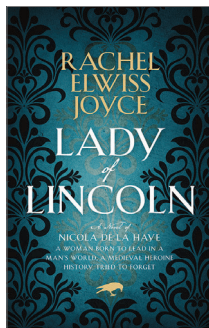
**Lady of Lincoln: A Novel of Nicole de la Haye**

Rachel Elwiss Joyce | Hedgehog Books

500p, e-book, \$3.99, ISBN 978-1-919-33791-3

Joyce's historical fiction debut vividly portrays Nicola de la Haye, a 12th-century noblewoman who defied societal norms to protect her legacy, family, and lands, during a time when women were largely regarded as inconsequential. Beginning in 1168, Nicola's story emerges as one of courage and conviction, as she steps into the role of protector of her father's Lincoln Castle, defends those who are vulnerable, and transforms from a naive girl into a formidable leader. When her father dies unexpectedly, Nicola is left to manage her own fate. Her first step on that tentative path is to wed William FitzErneis (Fitz), a match she believes is made from passion—though it's decidedly below her station. But Nicola soon discovers that, despite her determination, the world of 12th-century England won't make life easy for a strong, resilient woman.

Joyce intricately blends Nicola's personal struggles—including her marriage to Fitz and later union, after his death, to Gerard de Camville—with historical events like Henry the Young King's Great Rebellion and the martyrdom of Thomas Becket,



*Captivating portrait of medieval woman determined to forge her own path.*

**Great for fans of Anchee Min's *Empress Orchid*, Lauren Groff's *Matrix*.**

complexities of love and duty in medieval times.

The historical setting is meticulously researched, with vivid descriptions of Lincoln Castle, the surrounding countryside, and the brutal realities of medieval warfare. Joyce's attention to detail immerses readers in the period while providing authenticity, and real historical figures like King Henry II and Prince John add depth, their interactions set against political chaos and dynastic maneuverings. *Lady of Lincoln* is a captivating exploration of history—depicted through the lens of a remarkable female protagonist—that explores themes of love, loss, loyalty, and resilience against a richly detailed medieval backdrop.

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

## FICTION

**Intrinsic**

W.H.B.

364p, e-book, \$2.99, ASIN B0F63P5DVY

Set in New York City during the late 2000s, W.H.B.'s searching, thought-provoking novel of American class and opportunity follows Chris Franklin, a struggling cab driver navigating personal turmoil amid the 2008 financial crisis and Barack Obama's election. With welcome nuance, W.H.B. finds fresh power in the reversals-of-fortunes plots of classic lit with a series of transformations that find Chris moving, with a street-level view, through hierarchies of American class. While raised wealthy, Chris is now a self-loathing cabbie who becomes a celebrated author, his ascent exposing themes of identity, resilience, betrayal, and redemption. Through Chris's relationships with his estranged parents, daughters Sarah and Rose, and childhood friend Meghan, the novel examines how impulsive decisions, including an unplanned pregnancy, can fundamentally reshape a life. As Chris struggles to overcome his mistakes, he learns that true greatness is achieved through determination and resilience.

The novel effectively captures the '08 zeitgeist, integrating Wall Street's collapse, recession-era financial struggle, and Obama's “Yes We Can” campaign



*New York City cab driver experiences personal transformation after turmoil.*

**Great for fans of Lee Durkee's *The Last Taxi Driver*, Taffy Brodesser-Akner's *Fleishman is in Trouble*.**

musings that at times become verbose.

Still, this reflective narrative effectively blends flashbacks with present action, with the events of both reflecting and illuminating the other. Character development among the key cast is particularly strong, and readers will find Chris's evolution inspiring, while supporting characters like philosophical confidant Sami and stern father-in-law Franck add meaningful complexity. Chris's daughters serve as the emotional core, showcasing profound parent-child bonds that persist even through difficulty. Ultimately, W.H.B.'s insightful tale delivers a compelling exploration of personal growth amid societal upheaval.

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

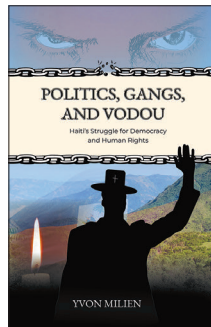
**POLITICAL & SOCIAL SCIENCES****Politics, Gangs, and Vodou: Haiti's Struggle for Democracy and Human Rights**

Yvon Milien | yMilien

268p, trade paper, \$18.99, ISBN 979-8-9860364-4-1

Milien (*The Journey to Spiritual Wholeness*) "dares to imagine a Haiti beyond dependency and despair—a Haiti of justice, resilience, and light," in this striking exploration of the forces that have molded Haiti into its current condition—and how to shape its future into one of "democratic renewal, cultural pride, and spiritual integrity." Born in Port-au-Prince, Milien draws from his personal experiences—and his work studying Haiti while earning his master's degree—to explore the country's background of poverty, violence, and lack of political freedom. From the first Black republic in history to the dictatorship of the Duvaliers to the budding of democracy in the 1990s, Milien portrays Haiti as courageous and committed to seeking freedom and peace.

In his prescription for the future, Milien emphasizes several intriguing ideas, particularly the role of Haitian media in developing the character of its people and fostering pride in their collective history: the media must expose corruption, recount



*Inspiring chronicle of Haiti's historical struggle for peace, justice, and freedom.*

**Great for fans of** Laurent Dubois's *Haiti*, Billy Wellman's *The Haitian Revolution*.

"To move forward, Haiti must reckon with its ghosts," he urges, "not to exorcise them but to learn from them."

The foundation Milien lays for Haiti's current issues and future promise is strong—and a reflection of a larger world where human rights and democracy are often overrun by the insatiable thirst for power and control. His guidelines and vision for Haiti hold wisdom for the world as a whole, marking how division, inequity, and manipulative foreign interests sacrifice "national consciousness" and effective leadership. The material is extensive, and can become repetitive when recounting historical events, but Milien's obvious passion for a united, free Haiti inspires.

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

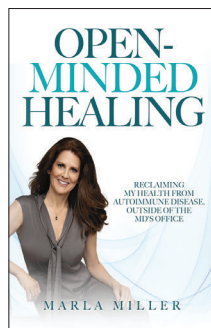
**SELF-HELP****Open-Minded Healing: Reclaiming My Health From Autoimmune Disease, Outside of the MD's Office**

Maria Miller | Open-Minded Healing, LLC

206p, e-book, \$2.99, ISBN 979-8-9922287-2-4

This hopeful debut finds Miller charting her holistic path to wellness after being diagnosed with rheumatoid arthritis. Prescribed medications with brutal side effects—and with little reassurance from doctors that her condition would improve—Miller turned to alternative treatments and lifestyle changes, including engaging a naturopath for primary care, making dietary changes, and eliminating toxins from her environment. Those methods enabled her to not only manage symptoms, but to eventually heal them completely, giving her "a life of freedom to do all the activities I want to do... [and] an endless sense of excitement."

Readers interested in natural remedies will find Miller's guide a wealth of information. She shares personal anecdotes of her medical journey as well as references to the healing methods she learned along the way, including a "how to" handbook at the end with tips on common autoimmune disorder symptoms, parasitic cleanses,



*Illuminating guide to self-healing, packed with practical information.*

**Great for fans of** Sara Szal Gottfried's *The Autoimmune Cure*, Jill Carnahan's *Unexpected*.

and more. One of the primary tools she shares is advocating for herself, not just with doctors, but with friends and family as well. "Learning to trust your gut and speak up for yourself is an instrumental part of the self-healing process," she writes. That skill serves Miller well as she navigates recommended treatments, divorce, and even masters self-love. Miller's writing is encouraging and informative, consistently prompting readers to feel empowered for change. She includes crucial healing information—ingredients needed for heavy metal cleanses, healthy food recipes, specifics on alternative treatments—alongside individualized exercises to help readers embark on their own wellness journeys. From Reiki sessions to smudging to decluttering, Miller recommends a host of methods to drive recovery, gently reminding readers that this is a long, layered journey—"Finding your purpose is no small feat," she writes, "you need to be able to suspend your ego and look at your life with a growth mindset"—but the reward of a healthy body, mind, and spirit is well worth the work.

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

**Booksellers & Librarians:**

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

All powered by *Publishers Weekly* reviewers.

**How are you handling self-published books?**

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



Reviews

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



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

PLUS



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