



# London 2025 Highlight List

## DYSTEL, GODERICH & BOURRET



### *Speculative Fiction*

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#### SAMANTHA SOTTO YAMBAO

Samantha Sotto Yambao is a professional daydreamer, aspiring time traveler, and speculative fiction writer based in Manila. She is the author of *Before Ever After*, *Love and Gravity*, *A Dream of Trees*, and the *Beginning of Always*. Her breakthrough novel *Water Moon* was published in January 2025 and was a *USA Today*, *Indie*, *Globe & Mail*, *Strait Times*, and *LA Times* bestseller.

#### THE ELSEWHERE EXPRESS

#### Fantasy

Del Rey/Winter 2026

All trains, no matter how full, are empty. Every passenger's mind wanders, journeying beyond the tracks.

One night, on her subway ride home, Raya's thoughts travel too far. Consumed by guilt and grief over her brother's tragic death, she has made it her mission to make her brother's childhood dream come true. She goes to medical school to become the doctor her brother had always wanted to be, pushing aside her own aspirations.

Raya wakes up on the Elsewhere Express, a train built entirely out of daydreams, songs, orphaned ideas, and meandering thoughts. Here, every passenger is a drifter, people without a purpose to anchor them to their lives. Like them, Raya is untethered, going through the motions of living without a dream of her own. The Elsewhere Express' endless, phantasmagorical journey is a chance for her to reimagine her life in one of its magical train cars.

Together with Q, a portraitist who has boarded the train with a secret, Raya must find her place on the Elsewhere Express and stop a dark, mysterious stowaway that threatens to destroy the train and everyone on it.

**WATER MOON** has been featured on most anticipated and best of lists from NetGalley, Goodreads, *Fangirlish*, *BookRiot*, *Bookstr*, *Sweetly High*, *Reader's Digest*, and *Overdrive*.

"**WATER MOON** is unlike anything I've ever read, full of wonders and terrors...a haunting, half-remembered dream of a book."—Gareth Brown, *Sunday Times* bestselling author of *The Book of Doors*

"Full of adventure and marvelous creativity, **WATER MOON** surprises and delights with every turn of the page. I didn't want to leave this fascinating world. Samantha Sotto Yambao has written an inventive, refreshing fantasy here."—Megan Bannen, bestselling author of *The Undertaking of Hart and Mercy*

"What a bright, fresh voice Samantha Sotto Yambao has brought to the literary world. **WATER MOON** is a novel for all the senses, but its true magic lies in being breathtakingly visual. You will be

Praise for *Water Moon*:

A January Indie Next Pick

An OwlCrate and Illumicrate Pick

A Book of the Month January Add-On

An Amazon January Editors' Pick

A LibraryReads Pick for January

A *Radio Times* Best Book of 2025

"Readers will be utterly drawn in to Yambao's excellent, vivid novel, which is powered by its enchanting setting. Our two protagonists race through a lush world of pure wonder and romance—kites made of wishes that become stars, origami that holds time in its folds, and a night market in the clouds...This book is charming, fresh, and difficult to put down."—*Booklist*, **starred review**

"Highly recommended...Readers who have been swept up in the cozy charm of *Before the Coffee Gets Cold* by Toshikazu Kawaguchi and *The Dallergut Dream Department Store* by Miye Lee will fall hard for the mix of magical realism, fantasy mystery, and star-crossed romance."—*Library Journal*, **starred review**

"A heartwarming, low-suspense read that reminds us to take hold of our lives and our choices."—*BookPage*, **starred review**

"Yambao's inventive setting pushes the limits of common fantasy tropes, and her thought-provoking exploration of regret, choice, and free will resonates. This whimsical tale will have readers riveted."—*Publishers Weekly*

"This new, soft fantasy is the perfect companion to a fuzzy blanket and a comfortable chair: enter a delightful (but still dangerous) world of paper-lantern wishes and origami secrets."—*BookRiot*

"An engaging, dreamy fantasy with an atmosphere reminiscent of a Studio Ghibli production."—*The Guardian*

spirited away."—Sarah Addison Allen, *New York Times* bestselling author of *Other Birds*

*A complete manuscript should be available for submission in Spring 2025 and for translation in Fall 2025.*

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## AUGUSTINE MARCH

Augustine March (he/him) is a trans author interested in reality bending romance that showcases the timeless beauty of queer and trans love. His first novel, **IN DUE TIME**, is forthcoming from Avon Books.

**IN DUE TIME**

**Romantasy**

**Avon/June 2026**

Clay Wilder moved to Portland, Oregon three years ago looking for community, love, and success as a visual artist—and so far he's zero for three. He doesn't know how to fit in with the trendy artists in the city, or to boil himself down to the elevator pitch that would make him more popular on dating apps. He's thinking of abandoning the city altogether when he meets someone who might change his feelings about Portland, and his destiny, altogether. Lee is an older man, grounded, confident and mature in all the ways Clay isn't. And he seems to see something in Clay that no one else has. There must be a catch.

And there is. On their third date, Lee drops a bombshell even Clay—prone to catastrophizing—couldn't have seen coming. The older man claims to be a visitor from the future. A very specific future, in fact, where he and Clay are married, successful, and blissfully happy. But in order for that future to materialize, Clay needs to seek out his younger self in the present and get things started. He must also not, under any circumstances, reveal his agenda, or the knowledge he has about the future. To do so, Lee warns him, would have disastrous consequences.

Skeptical, but unwilling to give up on a future with the man he's fallen all-too quickly for, Clay seeks out the younger Lee (going by his full name, Raleigh) and discovers a passionate young artist who is pretentious, aloof, self-centered, and seems to represent everything Clay hates about Portland's art scene. How can this guy possibly grow up to be the man Clay loves? Driven by his longing for Lee, Clay reluctantly enters Raleigh's world — a world of glamorous, talented young artists who seem to have it all — but his doubts about their future only grow until Lee returns once more to guide him, hinting at a great tragedy that can only be averted if Clay stays on course. But how can Clay fall for Raleigh and avert this disaster...when the man he truly wants is right in front of him?

Augustine March has written a heart-rending romantic epic about time travel, destiny, and passion about one man simultaneously falling for two people who are actually the same person. Borrowing the lush romanticism of *The Invisible Life of Addie LaRue* and the time-busting plotting of *The Time Traveler's Wife*, **IN DUE TIME** is a glorious epic romance shot through with mystery and wonder.

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## CECILIA EDWARD

Cecilia Edward is the pen name of Remy Lai, a celebrated children's author and illustrator who has won the Australian Prime Minister's Literary Award and the SCBWI Sid Fleischman Award for Humor. **AN ANCIENT WITCH'S GUIDE TO MODERN DATING** is her first novel for adults.

**AN ANCIENT WITCH'S GUIDE TO MODERN DATING**

**Romantasy**

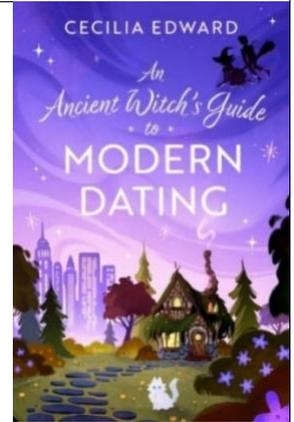
**Saga/August 2025**

An ancient witch explores the thrills—and perils—of online dating with hilarity and heart in a charming rom-com perfect for fans of cozy fantasy and witchy romance.

Meet Thorn Scarhart, a thirty-nine-year-old witch who's having trouble finding love in the 17th century. Despite the local matchmaker's efforts and Thorn's arsenal of powerful love potions, she has yet to fall in love. After the disappearance of her sister and the loss of her mother, Thorn was too caught up in...well, life, to focus on dating. Now, she fears she may have missed her chance.

But, when one of her potion brews backfires spectacularly, Thorn is hurled 350 years into the future, landing in a bustling city where her once-isolated cottage is now a historical museum. While this unexpected

**"AN ANCIENT WITCH'S GUIDE TO MODERN DATING** is a laugh-out-loud delight from start to finish! You'll find yourself rooting for Thorn as she grapples with 21st-century dating conventions and learns that self-discovery is more powerful than any potion. Perfect for anyone who wants to enjoy a witchy romcom full of humor and heart." —Stacy Sivinski,



leap through time may seem daunting, modern life does have its perks: indoor plumbing, electric kettles, and the world of online dating. At thirty-nine, the odds may not be perfect, but at least they're not impossible.

With the help of the museum's new curator—and her charming veterinarian brother—Thorn dives headfirst into the 21st-century dating scene. And as she searches for romance, she might also find herself along the way.

**AN ANCIENT WITCH'S GUIDE TO MODERN DATING** is a delightful mix of humor, heart, and a sprinkle of magic. Cozy fantasy lovers will adore this enchanting rom-com, which is a must-read for fans of Sangu Mandanna's *The Very Secret Society of Irregular Witches* and Erin Sterling's *The Ex Hex*.

national bestselling author of *The Crescent Moon Tearoom*

**“AN ANCIENT WITCH'S GUIDE TO MODERN DATING** transports readers to an enchanting and romantic world of magic, unexpected friendship...and newfound love.” –Juliet Blackwell, *New York Times* bestselling author of the Witchcraft Mysteries and the Haunted Home Renovation series

“Charming, funny and sweet, this book is like a warm hug for the soul. The epitome of cozy fantasy!” –Katrina Kwan, author of *The Last Dragon of the East*

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## Book Club Fiction

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### NEENA VIEL

Neena Viel is a horror writer who lives in a cabin in the Washingtonian woods with her husband and the best dog on the planet. Her passion for philanthropy (almost) rivals her love for ghost stories. *Listen To Your Sister* was her debut novel.

#### I'LL WATCH YOUR BABY

Book Club Fiction

St. Martin's Press/February 2026

1974. Lottie Turner is already infamous. Running a wheel of schemes and scams, she's willing to work for what she wants in...creative ways. But no business is more lucrative than desperate families looking to adopt a child—and there's only one way to procure children quickly.

And the only way to take what's owed you is to cross the line no one else is willing to cross.

1994. Bless has finally found the family she deserved. After suffocating slowly with lackluster parents and a non-starter past, she's found the friends that mean everything to her. That she'd live and die for. As they make their way across the country, one smash and grab at a time, Bless is used to acting fast and thinking quickly.

But someone is playing a long game. Someone has unfinished business. Soon Bless is forced to extricate the horrifying pain of her past and choose to find forgiveness in her heart, or get revenge.

A suffocating and sharp narrative horror novel for fans of Victor LaValle and *My Sister the Serial Killer*, **I'LL WATCH YOUR BABY** is a riveting portrayal of one woman's life—pursued, scrutinized and vilified—and the impact her image has had over the course of generations.

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### LISTEN TO YOUR SISTER

Book Club Fiction

St. Martin's Press/February 2025

For fans of Jordan Peele's films, *Stranger Things*, and *The Other Black Girl*, **LISTEN TO YOUR SISTER** is a laugh-out-loud, deeply terrifying, and big-hearted speculative horror novel from electrifying debut talent Neena Viel.

Twenty-five year old Calla Williams is struggling since becoming guardian to her brother, Jamie. Calla is overwhelmed and tired of being the one who makes sacrifices to keep the family together. Jamie, full of good-natured sixteen-year-old recklessness, is usually off fighting for what matters to him or getting into mischief, often at the same time. Dre, their brother, promised he would help raise Jamie—but now the ink is dry on the paperwork and in classic middle-child fashion, he's off doing his own thing. And through it all, *The Nightmare* never stops haunting Calla: recurring images of her brothers dying that she is powerless to stop.

When Jamie's actions at a protest spiral out of control, the siblings must go on the run. Taking refuge in a remote cabin that looks like it belongs on a slasher movie poster rather than an AirBNB, the siblings now face a new threat where their lives—and reality—hang in the balance. Their sister always warned them about her nightmares. They really should have listened.

"Neena Viel's debut speculative novel is both deliciously terrifying and belly laugh-inducing"—*Bookpage*, **starred review**

"Unique and compelling, Viel's impressive debut turns real and relatable trauma into a terrifying and immerse supernatural horror story that is clearly underpinned with love."—*Library Journal*

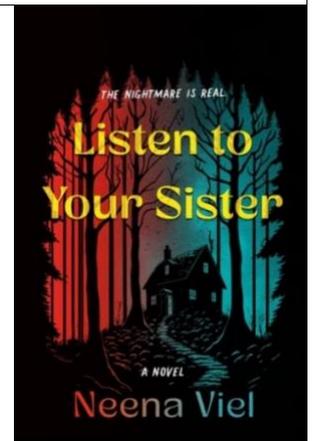
"[Viel's] portrayal of Calla as a sacrificing martyr whose love for her family is curdling into resentment gives her story powerful emotional ballast... Viel should win many fans with this."—*Publishers Weekly*

"Heartfelt and darkly humorous...Fans of Jordan Peele's films will want to check this out."—*Booklist*

"A relentless descent into familial fears made manifest, both haunting and terribly familiar."—*Kirkus*

"This twisted love letter to family uses humor to look at race, trauma, and parentification."—*People Magazine*

"Viel brilliantly pulls off both the comic and the terrifying in a skillfully



<p><b>LISTEN TO YOUR SISTER</b> is on the most anticipated list of 2025 books by Goodreads, <i>Paste</i>, <i>New Scientist</i>, <i>Reactor</i>, BookRiot, Crimereads, Polygon, Screen Rant, and more. It’s also a <i>People Magazine</i> Pick.</p> <p>"Speculative fiction was invented so stories like <b>LISTEN TO YOUR SISTER</b> could be told. What a knockout debut." –Ashley Winstead, author of <i>Midnight is the Darkest Hour</i> and <i>In My Dreams I Hold a Knife</i></p> <p>"Incredibly original and seriously scary. <b>LISTEN TO YOUR SISTER</b> will make you feel the fear of being stuck in a nightmare that doesn’t just strike at night. Gripping and powerful, this is horror at its finest." – Nick Medina, author of <i>Sisters of the Lost Nation</i></p> <p>"Wonderfully weird and inventive. Viel's tale of siblings' love and struggle in modern America is as affecting as it is thought-provoking." –T.L. Huchu, <i>USA Today</i> bestselling author of <i>The Library of the Dead</i></p>	<p>crafted voice that will have you laughing right before it knocks you down with grief. I loved these characters and how Viel examines the real horror that the past can manifest in our present-day lives. This is an amazing debut." –Claire Jimenez, author of <i>What Happened to Ruthy Ramirez?</i></p> <p>“<b>LISTEN TO YOUR SISTER</b> is a brilliant fever-dream of a novel that effortlessly dances between horror, literary, and family saga—sure to appeal to fans of Grady Hendrix, Tananarive Due, Mona Awad, and Stephen King.” –Maria Dong, author of <i>Liar, Dreamer, Thief</i></p> <p>"Viel faces the dark side of family head on, painting a fever dream of the nightmarish obligations of love." –Maggie Thrash, author of <i>Rainbow Black</i></p> <p>"If you're looking for a smart, contemporary take on the classic cabin in the woods horror novel, look no further than <b>LISTEN TO YOUR SISTER</b>." –Erika T. Wurth, author of <i>White Horse</i></p> <p>“Equal parts haunting and humane, <b>LISTEN TO YOUR SISTER</b> moves with breathtaking velocity.” –Omar El Akkad, bestselling and award-winning author of <i>What Strange Paradise</i> and <i>American War</i></p>
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<p><b>SOPHIE WAN</b></p>	
<p>Sophie Wan is a Bay Area native who loves the outdoors and staying hydrated. She graduated from UC Berkeley and recently completed her MBA at the University of Pennsylvania. She is the author of <i>Women of Good Fortune</i> and the forthcoming <b>THE SOCIAL CIRCLE</b>.</p>	
<p><b>THE SOCIAL CIRCLE</b> <b>Graydon House/Winter 2026</b></p>	<p><b>Book Club Fiction</b></p>
<p><i>The Social Network</i> meets <i>Daisy Jones &amp; The Six</i> in this dual-narrative novel about a group of UC Berkeley friends who found a social media company in the early 2000s, their scandalous falling out, and the 10-year anniversary exposé that forces them back together for a dramatic reunion on a private European island.</p> <p>When Maggie Tang arrives as a friendless transfer-student at UC Berkeley in 2005, she has no idea how her life is about to change. In the hallway of her chaotic, dingy apartment building, she meets the three friends with whom she’ll create Circle: the world’s first major social media company. But navigating her creative ambitions alongside love and friendship isn’t so simple and inevitably they collide, leading to a scandalous falling-out.</p> <p>A decade later, Maggie is struggling with a new venture when she receives an invitation to celebrate the 10th anniversary of Circle on a private European island. While she’s still bitter about how things ended, she can’t resist the handwritten plea at the bottom: Come, please.</p> <p>Between boat rides and beach days, bit by bit the reunion begins to feel like old times. But the presence of a journalist writing a retrospective about Circle means they can’t tiptoe around the past forever. And when a new truth is revealed about the dramatic events of all those years ago, Maggie will have to decide if she was right to stay away and protect her heart, or if this second chance is worth fighting for...</p>	<p>Praise for <i>Women of Good Fortune</i>: “Interwoven into the intricate plotting, crazy-rich-Asian exorbitance, and not-always believable twists (doesn’t matter!), are sharp, biting, brilliant observations about twenty-first-century womanhood in a world that still overvalues sons, brothers, husbands, and (useless) men.” – <i>Booklist</i>, <b>starred review</b></p> <p>“The story's urgency will keep readers captivated. But it is what these women learn along the way—about themselves and about one another—that gives the novel its heart, as the three must reconsider what happiness might actually look like, money or no.” –<i>Shelf Awareness</i>, <b>starred review</b></p>
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**RASHEED NEWSON**

Rasheed Newson is an author, a television drama writer, an executive producer, and a showrunner. *My Government Means to Kill Me* was his debut novel. Rasheed was an Executive Producer of the drama series *Bel-Air* (Peacock).

**THERE'S ONLY ONE SIN IN HOLLYWOOD****Book Club Fiction****Flatiron Books/April 2026**

Xavier C. Barlow is one of the young Black stars taking Hollywood by storm in the late 1950's. Discovered by George Cukor who called him "an exquisite buck-almost beyond belief," Xavier is contract player for Skyline Motion Pictures, hired by that outfit to be the studio's answer to Sidney Poitier's burgeoning success.

Aaron Toussaint is an armed forces veteran turned Hollywood fixer. Originally hired by Skyline alongside his good friend (code for lover) from the Navy, Aaron has since been abandoned—his erstwhile partner having returned to middle America to find a wife and to play it straight.

Whether or not the studio bosses know Aaron's sexual identity, he is usually deployed to help Skyline's gay stars stay as deep in the closet as humanly possible. When he's assigned to help hide Xavier's true nature, he finds himself conflicted—a little bit in love with the younger man but also jealous and resentful of the actor's growing insistence to live openly as a homosexual in an era before Stonewall. Aaron knows this spells doom for Xavier, and his worst fears are realized when Xavier is killed, at the height of his fame, under suspicious circumstances. Driven by grief and guilt, Aaron goes about exposing why Xavier was murdered and naming the powerful culprits.

Written as a confession/explanation/cris de coeur from Aaron's perspective, **THERE'S ONLY ONE SIN IN HOLLYWOOD** is a delicious dive into the glitz and glamour of Hollywood and simultaneously a searing examination of the town's artifice and a fascinating journey into the queer history of Los Angeles.

Praise for *My Government Means To Kill Me*:  
A NEW YORK TIMES NOTABLE BOOK  
A NEW YORK TIMES BOOK REVIEW EDITOR'S CHOICE  
2023 LAMBDA LITERARY PRIZE FOR GAY FICTION FINALIST

"Consistently engrossing." —*New York Times Book Review*

"Full of joy and righteous anger, sex and straight talk, brilliant storytelling and humor...A spectacularly researched Dickensian tale with vibrant characters and dozens of famous cameos, it is precisely the book we've needed for a long time."—Andrew Sean Greer, Pulitzer Prize-winning author of *Less*

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# Romance

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## ISABELLE ENGEL

Originally from New England, Isabelle Engel now lives and works in Washington, D.C. She has an MA in English literature from George Washington University. When she's not imagining ways to make reality TV even more dramatic, she can be found reading, doing dance fitness, and petting other people's dogs. This is her debut novel.

### **MOST ELIGIBLE**

### **Contemporary Romance**

#### **St. Martin's Press/Winter 2026**

*Miss Congeniality* meets *The Bachelor* in this action-packed rom-com debut about an investigative journalist who sneaks onto reality TV only to fall for the wrong guy.

Georgia Rose is not going on the hit reality show Love Shack to find love. She's there to write a killer expose on the producers, which will guarantee the journalism job of her dreams. But when Georgia's unforgettable one-night stand from the year before, country singer Rhett Auburn, steps into the Malibu mansion as the season's new host, all of her carefully crafted plans unravel.

Caught up in the drama of backstabbing contestants, producer blackmail, and death-defying dates, Georgia must keep her identity—and history with Rhett—a secret. Despite the lies between them, it isn't long before Georgia and Rhett's heated behind-the-scenes moments start to feel more genuine than the romance Georgia's faking for the cameras. But with her assignment unfinished and the executive producer on her tail, a second chance with Rhett could be her riskiest move of all.

"**MOST ELIGIBLE** is a sure hit for fans of swoony second-chance romances, reality TV, and juicy behind-the-scenes drama. Georgia and Rhett have steamy chemistry from page one and it makes the slow burn love affair simmer that much more. This book absolutely deserves the final rose!" –Mallory Marlowe, *USA Today* bestselling author of *Love and Other Conspiracies*

"Laugh out loud funny and all too topical, **MOST ELIGIBLE** is the romcom of the moment. I was swooning and gasping every chapter! Hands down, this was the most fun reading experience I've had in a while. Consider me Engel's biggest fan. If you want a guaranteed happily ever after, skip *The Bachelor* and read this instead." –Clare Gilmore, author of *Perfect Fit*

"Honestly you don't even need to watch or enjoy *The Bachelor* to adore this sparkling reality dating show romance from Isabelle Engel. I loved the heat and history between contestant Georgia, who's not-there-for-the-right-reasons, and Rhett, her one-night-stand who's now hosting the show. And I was legitimately on the edge of my seat waiting to see what Georgia might uncover about the seedy underbelly of the show, and how everything was going to resolve. No spoilers here, but I did NOT see that finale coming!" –Alicia Thompson, *USA Today* bestselling author of *The Art of Catching Feelings*

"Tension and secrets and drama!! **MOST ELIGIBLE** encapsulates everything I love about reality television! The winks and nods to shows like *The Bachelor* were a delight, as were the unexpected

"Isabelle Engel's debut is as deliciously addictive as its reality TV influences. From the dreamy love interest and hilarious cast of supporting characters to the cheeky call-outs of classic *Bachelor* tropes, **MOST ELIGIBLE** will delight fans of reality dating shows and 90s rom-coms. I thoroughly enjoyed the way Engel pulled back the proverbial curtain, allowing readers to sneak backstage and eavesdrop on the juiciest on-set gossip. I adored this book from start to finish and was so sad to turn the last page!" –Lindsay Hameroff, author of *Never Planned on You*

"**MOST ELIGIBLE** is like your favorite reality TV show - full of drama you can't look away from, villains you love to hate, and characters so filled with such breathless longing that you're rooting for their happily ever after no matter what. This book was absolutely bingeable and a triumph from debut author Isabelle Engel. The humor had me giggling, the social commentary was poignant, and the spice level was definitely TV-MA. I couldn't put this one down and I know you won't be able to either!" –Denise Williams, author of *Just Our Luck*

"Take the romantic set-up of *The Bachelor*, add in the drama, betrayals, and backstabbing of *Unreal*, and make it laugh-out-loud funny and you'll get **MOST ELIGIBLE**, the swoony and sexy debut romance from Isabelle Engel. With a cast of characters you'll love, others you'll love to hate, and twists you won't see coming, this book is unputdownable and pure delight!" –Meredith Schorr, author of *RoomMating*

"This is THE book for *Bachelor* lovers. **MOST ELIGIBLE** is witty, smart and absolutely overflowing with chemistry. This is a fresh new take on a reality dating show romance, and I couldn't put it down." –Betty Cayouette, author of *One Last Shot* and creator of Betty's Book List

"Like the reality TV shows it's based on, **MOST ELIGIBLE** is escapist, charming, and sneakily heartfelt. I was hooked from page one! Engel's writing is incredibly clever, witty, and inclusive. What an incredibly fun ride!" –Neely Tubati Alexander, author of *Love Buzz* and *Courtroom Drama*

"As juicy as a season of the best reality TV! Ripe with scandal, steam, and will-they-or-won't-they tension, **MOST ELIGIBLE** is the perfect read for fans of page-turning romances full of heart. Isabelle Engel has written a

twists, forbidden romance, and the chemistry between Georgia and Rhett! I thoroughly enjoyed this read!"—Naina Kumar, *USA Today* bestselling author of *Flirting with Disaster*

"I absolutely loved this book. Filled with humorous twists and palpable tension, this sparkling debut is perfect for fans of *The Bachelor*, *Unreal*, & *Charm Offensive*. I laughed, I gasped, and I thought critically about what our reality TV consumption says about our desire to forge true connections. I can't wait to see what Engel does next."—Iman Hariri-Kia, author of *The Most Famous Girl in the World* and *A Hundred Other Girls*

showstopper of a debut."—Holly James, author of *Name Your Price*

"Isabelle Engel has crafted an absolutely stunning rom com debut packed with heart and humor. I was captured by her sharp voice and wit from the very first page! **MOST ELIGIBLE** is a must read for anyone who has spent three hours of their Monday night watching overly produced singles attempt to find love, and a must read for anyone who loves a laugh out loud romance that will leave you swooning. Engel is a writer to watch!"—Falon Ballard, *USA Today* bestselling author of *Change Of Heart*

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## MADGE MARIL

Madge Maril is a writer, editor, and Byronic hero enthusiast whose work has been published by *Harper's Bazaar*, *Cosmopolitan*, and more. Previously a beauty and fashion journalist, Madge fell back in love with fiction through fandom and has been writing stories about big feelings ever since. She lives in Ohio with her husband and cat.

**SLIPSTREAM**  
**Untitled Book 2**

**Sports Romance**

**Simon & Schuster/May 2025**

In the high-speed world of Formula 1, documentarian Lilah teams up with racing driver Arthur Bianco for a whirlwind of revenge—and perhaps something more.

Lilah Graywood never imagined she'd be spending her summer amidst the roaring engines and adrenaline-fueled world of Formula 1 racing. As a serious documentarian, her passion lies in capturing the raw, unfiltered truth. But when her best friend, business co-owner, and secret boyfriend Max decides to pivot their documentary company to film the Ignition Energy Drink Racing team, Lilah is thrust into a world she despises. Her disdain turns to fury when Max blindsides her, not only ending their relationship but also threatening the company she painstakingly built.

Enter Arthur Bianco, the charismatic and enigmatic F1 reserve driver whose career is as tumultuous as the races he dreams of winning. Initially, Lilah is supposed to document Arthur's relegation to backup driver, but together they concoct a plan to take control of Max's documentary, each with their own motives—Lilah's revenge and Arthur's redemption. Their secret alliance promises to change the narrative, both on and off the track.

As they navigate the glamorous circuits and behind-the-scenes secrets of Formula 1, an unexpected speedbump forces Lilah and Arthur's partnership to evolve into a fake relationship that feels all too real. The chemistry between them is off-limits and undeniable, and as Arthur's cinematic comeback plays out over the hot globe-trotting summer, Lilah finds herself drawn to his true charm and hidden vulnerability. But as the cameras roll and the world watches, Lilah must confront her own feelings and the reality that no script can dictate the course of true love.

**SLIPSTREAM** is a captivating tale of love, revenge, and the unexpected turns life takes. With its blend of humor,

"**SLIPSTREAM** shines as bright as the lights on an F1 track with its stunning prose, complex and relatable characters, and pulse-pounding action! I'm confident Madge Maril will soon be your favorite romance writer's favorite romance writer."—Liana de la Rosa, *USA Today* bestselling author

"Formula 1 cars go fast but Madge Maril makes your heart race faster in this high-speed and high-stakes romance. Loaded with crackling tension on and off the circuits and a whole lot of heart, **SLIPSTREAM** is a dazzling debut!"—Lauren Kung Jessen, author of *Yin Yang Love Song*

"Fans of Ali Hazelwood and Formula 1 racing rejoice and buckle up for **SLIPSTREAM**, an irresistibly voicey, charming, and sexy romance between a lonely documentarian and a superstar F1 driver with baggage of his own. Full of snappy prose and oozing with chemistry, readers will love watching Lilah fall hard for Arthur as he falls even harder for her. Mark my words, Madge Maril is about to take romancelandia by storm with her stunning debut romance."—Meredith Schorr, author of *As Seen on TV*

"A sexy, vibrant escapade through the wild world of Formula 1 with high stakes and huge feelings. **SLIPSTREAM** swept me up in one of my fastest reading binges in months. It's a perfect on-ramp for racing-curious romance readers."—Kate Goldbeck, bestselling author of *You, Again*

"I'll be the first to admit I don't know anything about Formula 1 but here's what I've learned about it from Madge Maril's brilliant debut romance **SLIPSTREAM**: it is SEXY. Like, pupils dilating, breath quickening, heart racing SEXY. My pulse sped up from a glimpse of Arthur's wrist when he's all suited up to drive and then it slowed



heart, and high-speed drama, this contemporary romance is a must-read for anyone who believes in the power of second chances and the thrill of the chase.	back down for the way he really sees Lilah in a way she doesn't always even see herself. I lost my mind over this book."—Alicia Thompson, <i>USA Today</i> bestselling author of <i>The Art of Catching Feelings</i>
<i>A complete manuscript is available for submission and translation.</i>	
<i>DGB controls translation. S&amp;S controls U.K. rights.</i>	
<i>All rights are available.</i>	

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## LIBBY HUBSCHER

Libby Hubscher is an author and scientist. She studied biology at Bowdoin College in Brunswick, Maine and holds a doctor of philosophy in molecular toxicology from North Carolina State University. Her work has appeared online and in textbooks, scientific journals, and literary journals.

### HEART MARKS THE SPOT

### Contemporary Romance

**Berkley/July 2025**

A treasure hunter and the bestselling adventure novelist who broke her heart after one successful expedition reunite for a summer to search for lost riches.

Treasure hunter Stella Moore dreams of having it all—wealth, love, and a flourishing career—but knows she'll never be that lucky. Every summer she and her childhood friends travel to search for hidden treasure, but she can barely manage her bills let alone a relationship. Then a chance encounter with alluring novelist Huck Sullivan during an expedition in Iceland has Stella thinking maybe her fortune has changed.

After his last book bombed, Huck hasn't written a word. Joining Stella and her crew on an adventure seems like the perfect distraction from his problems, and when the crew finally uncovers hidden treasure, he is certain that he's found more than just inspiration for his next novel. Huck and Stella's undeniable connection gives way to an unforgettable night on a black sand beach.

After Huck disappears without a goodbye, Stella vows to put the heartbreak behind her—easier said than done when a year later, every bookstore has a lifesize cutout of her ex-lover next to stacks of his latest record-breaking bestseller. Good thing it's time for another summer treasure hunt. Stella throws herself into mapping the path to a shipwreck off Key West, but the last thing she expects is an extra crewmember showing up in search of material for a sequel and a second chance.

Stella and Huck are prepared for storms, sharks, sea sickness, even a tentative truce. But facing the feelings they buried and confronting the devastating truth about why Huck left is the only way to find what their hearts have been searching for all along.

*A complete manuscript is available for submission and should be available for translation in Spring 2025.*

*DGB controls translation. PRH controls U.K.*

*All rights are available.*

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“**HEART MARKS THE SPOT** is a swoon-worthy treasure trove of romance, adventure, and heart. Libby Hubscher whisks readers away to breathtaking settings while weaving a story of high-stakes treasure hunting, deep friendship, and love that will keep you turning pages late into the night. Fun, romantic, and utterly unforgettable!” —Ali Brady, *USA Today* bestselling author of *Until Next Summer*

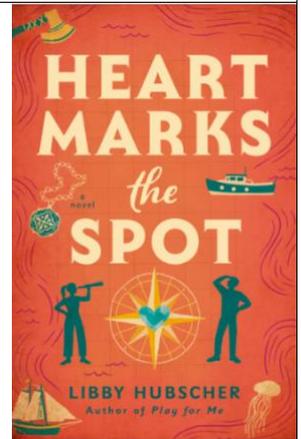
"Adventure, vibrant second-chance romance, and a wonderful cast of friends - Libby Hubscher treats us to it all in the delightful **HEART MARKS THE SPOT**. You'll laugh, you'll cry, you'll sigh happily when you finish it, then want to start rereading all over again." —India Holton, internationally bestselling author of *The Ornithologist's Field Guide to Love*

Praise for Libby Hubscher:

“Libby Hubscher has solidified her spot as one of my favorite authors with this one!” —Lynn Painter, *New York Times* bestselling author of *The Love Wager*

“Libby Hubscher is a master of portraying the messy beauty of emotions and love, every word chosen with care and gentleness. I'll read anything she writes.”—Mazey Eddings, author of *Lizzie Blake's Best Mistake*

“Hubscher expertly crafts a delicious blend of humor, whimsy, and raw emotion that left me laughing, crying, and unable to put it down.”—Denise Williams, author of *Technically Yours*



## KARELIA & FAY STETZ-WATERS

Ambassadors of real-life happily-ever-after, Fay and Karelia Stetz-Waters have been together for twenty-three years. They live in Albany, Oregon with their pug-mix Willa Cather and a garden full of dragonflies and hummingbirds. Their writing process involves many afternoons spent at local coffee shops and brewpubs outlining scenes, going over drafts, and high fiving each other. The process works beautifully.

### TASTE THE LOVE

### Contemporary Romance

**Forever/July 2025**

Two rival chefs must enter a marriage of convenience to secure a land deal in this deliciously charming romcom from fan-favorite author Karelia Stetz-Waters and her wife, Fay Stetz-Waters—perfect for fans of Meryl Wilsner and Ashley Herring Blake.

**A delicious, heartwarming romantic comedy about big dreams, life-changing friendships, and the people who bring out your best.**

Six years ago, eco-chef Alice Sullivan and her culinary-school rival *almost* gave into the burning tension between them. But those kisses? Just the heat of competition boiling over. Sullivan never expected to see Kia after graduation... until Kia crashes back into her life with a plan to buy Sullivan's beloved Portland greenspace.

Kia has worked hard building her social media empire as the big-hearted glitter-bomb queen of the food-truck scene. Now she's one step away from opening a foodie utopia for underrepresented culinary talents. But Kia's plans catch the attention of a bulldozer-happy food conglomerate, and now both Kia and Sullivan's dreams are on the line. When a legal loophole turns out to be the only way to save what they each love most, they're left with one option: pull off a very public fake marriage to obtain the deed to the land *and* keep their old rivalry under control.

As the line between fake and real love blurs, can Kia and Sullivan set aside their differences and find the perfect recipe for happily ever after?

*A complete manuscript is available for submission and should be available for translation in Spring 2025.*

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Praise for the authors:  
"I'm not sure I've ever felt the actual love bleeding from the pages the way I did reading this first collaboration between the Stetz-Waters duo."—Smart Bitches Trashy Books



"Isn't it awkward when you show up on your first day of filming and your competition is the hottest one-night stand you've ever had? Izzy and Lillian are both bright and wary; the combination makes for sparkling banter when they're deflecting, and incisive observations when they start letting the other in."—*New York Times Book Review*

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## MASON DEAVER

Mason Deaver is the bestselling and award-winning author of young adult books like *I Wish You All the Best*, for which a film adaptation is forthcoming; and *The Feeling of Falling in Love*, which earned a starred review from BookPage. *The Build-a-Boyfriend Project* is their adult romance debut. Born and raised in a small town in North Carolina, Mason now calls San Francisco home, with three feline roommates.

Their YA books have sold in: Brazil (Globo), Germany (Zuckersüss), Hungary (Konyvmolykepzo), Italy (Oscar Fantastica), Netherlands (DVP), Poland (WeNeedYA), Portugal (Desrotina), Spain (Planeta), Vietnam (I Love Books), and the UK (Macmillan).

### THE BUILD-A-BOYFRIEND PROJECT

### Contemporary Romance

**Avon/August 2025**

Bestselling and award-winning author Mason Deaver's adult romance debut follows a journalist in a dead-end job who agrees to teach his disastrous blind date how to be a better boyfriend. Readers will delight in this sweet and steamy queer romance with trans representation!

Eli Francis is stuck. Stuck in an assistant position at the online magazine Vent when he should be a writer. Stuck with a boss who dangles a promotion but would rather he just fetch the coffee. Stuck working alongside the ex who has had no trouble moving up at work...or moving on.

When Eli's roommates push him to date so he can get over his ex once and

"I was swept up in Eli and Peter's endearing romance about how searching for love can lead to finding yourself. Funny, honest, and full of fake dating tropey goodness, Eli and his cinnamon roll hero are your next must-have book boyfriends. Put this rom-com to the top of your 2025 TBR pile!"—Samantha



**For more on these titles and our complete list, please see our Full Rights Guides.**

for all, they set him up with Peter Park. Tall, handsome, and unbelievably awkward. The date is a complete disaster, and further proof to Eli that love isn't for him. But when his boss overhears Eli recounting the catastrophic night, he suggests teaching Peter to be a better boyfriend through a series of simulated dates so he can write an article about it.

But Eli has other ideas...Eli plays along, pretending to write the article, while secretly interviewing Peter about growing up queer in the South and coming-of-age dating wise in adulthood. Eli hopes writing this sort of piece will finally get him the promotion he deserves. And in exchange, he will teach Peter how to be a better boyfriend.

But the more time Eli spends with Peter, the closer they become, and the lines between what's real and what's fake begin to blur. Before long, Eli is forced to face his greatest fears to become the writer he wants to be and secure the love he's always needed.

"**THE BUILD-A-BOYFRIEND PROJECT** is full of heart, full of charm, full of swoons and, most importantly, full of things to say about life, love, and becoming who we want to be. Mason Deaver has built a winner!" – Adib Khorram, *USA Today* bestselling author of *I'll Have What He's Having*

"I will read literally anything Mason Deaver ever writes." –Alicia Thompson, *USA Today* bestselling author of *The Art of Catching Feelings*

Young, *New York Times* bestselling author of the *On Dublin Street* series

"Sweet and sexy, **THE BUILD-A-BOYFRIEND PROJECT** is a delightful romance about taking chances and embracing the unexpected. Disastrous first date to possible true love...what could be more delicious?" –Ashley Herring Blake, *USA Today* bestselling author of *Iris Kelly Doesn't Date*

"**THE BUILD-A-BOYFRIEND PROJECT** is an addicting story full of hard-hitting emotions, balanced perfectly by a whip-smart and hilarious voice. An adorable love interest will have you rooting for a well-earned happily-ever-after until the very end. Mason has knocked it out of the park with this heartwarming romance." –National Book Award-Winning Author Kacen Callender

"Eli and Peter's messy, tender love story speaks to anyone who's ever felt like an outsider, capturing at once the heartbreak and joy of finding yourself and your people." –Emma R. Alban, *USA Today* bestselling author of *Don't Want You Like a Best Friend*

*A complete manuscript is available for submission and should be available for translation in Spring 2025.*

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# Suspense

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## SAUNDRA MITCHELL

Saundra Mitchell (she/they) has been a phone psychic, a car salesperson, a denture-deliverer and a layout waxer. She’s dodged trains, endured basic training, and hitchhiked from Montana to California. She now lives in Maryland with her wife, daughter and two terrible, perfect cats. **THIS SIDE OF GONE** is her first novel for adults.

**THIS SIDE OF GONE**

**Crime Thriller**

**Morrow/January 2026**

Vanetta (Vinnie) Taylor isn’t a cop anymore. After 25 years in service, she retired from her job in spectacular fashion—working undercover for Internal Affairs to bust a sex trafficking ring in her own Homicide Unit. Nearly beaten to death by her former colleagues to prevent her testimony from crossing the thin blue line, Vinnie is now living a small-town life, far from the police who tried to kill her. Vinnie is determined to put her past behind her, but the story of a teenager missing in her new hometown catches her attention.

Avery Adair’s family is notorious in Wills Harbor, Maryland. If there’s a burglary, a scam, or a drug deal in this town, it’s safe to assume an Adair was involved. Which is why no one was particularly concerned when Avery went missing. But Vinnie feels a kinship to this teen she’s never met. Vinnie also grew up poor, surrounded by hard circumstances and harder people.

Celebrated children’s novelist Saundra Mitchell makes her adult debut with the thriller **THIS SIDE OF GONE**—a police procedural for people who don’t trust the police, it follows Vinnie as she becomes increasingly involved in a case that she has no right to be investigating while fearing for her own safety and attempting to stay as far away from any police officer as humanly possible. This terrific novel is perfect for fans of Tana French and Rachel Howzell Hall.

*A complete manuscript is available for submission and should be available for translation in Fall 2025.*

*DGB controls translation rights. Morrow controls U.K. rights.*

*All rights are available.*

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## Nonfiction

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### TILAR MAZZEO

Tilar J. Mazzeo is Professeure Associée at University of Montreal, the former Clara C. Piper Associate Professor of English at Colby College, and the author of numerous works of narrative nonfiction. Her books have been New York Times, San Francisco Chronicle, and Los Angeles Times bestsellers.

Her previous books have sold in: Arabic (Jarrous, Athra), Brazilian Portuguese (Globo), Czech (Prah), Dutch (Cargo, Saga), Finnish (Like, Otava), French (Belfond), German (Heyne), Hebrew (Keter), Italian (Piemme), Japanese (Tokyo Sogensha), Lithuanian (Alma), Norwegian (Cappelen Damm), Polish (Niezwykle), Portuguese (ASA), Russian (Alpina), Slovakian (Motyl), Spanish (PRH, Santillana), and Swedish (Forma), and the UK (Scribe).

#### THE SEA CAPTAIN'S WIFE

**A True Story of Mutiny, Love, and Adventure at the Bottom of the World**

**History**

**St. Martin's Press/December 2025**

Set in the summer of 1856 in the midst of a celebrity clipper ship race to deliver supplies to the California Gold Rush and in the midst of the mid-nineteenth-century tuberculosis epidemic, captain's wife Mary Ann Patten is forced to take the helm, put down a mutiny, and attempt to steer a 216' clipper ship laden with the modern equivalent of \$11 million dollars of cargo through Drake's Passage and around Cape Horn, the most treacherous waters in the world. Caught in an 18-day gale, Mary Ann makes the only choice she can to save the ship and her crew and turns to run out of the storm and straight into Antarctica. In doing so she becomes both the first woman to command a merchant vessel and among the first women to navigate through the dangerous and magical landscape of Antarctica.

Drawing on the author's first-hand 2022 expedition to Antarctica, in search of Mary Ann's route, as well as new archival research into nineteenth-century women's maritime journals, this adventurous narrative biography is a timely contribution to new and increasingly relevant travel writing about the White Continent and its climate history.

This project has been supported by expedition funding from the National Endowment for the Humanities (2022-2023).

Praise for Tilar Mazzeo:

"Mazzeo's probing book delves intriguingly into the 'moral thicket' into which a group of strangers found themselves plunged during the long, dark days of World War II. A tantalizingly novelistic history lesson." —*Kirkus*, on *Sisters in Resistance*

"This account of tremendous bravery is recommended for teens and adults who are drawn to inspirational stories." —*Library Journal*, **starred review** on *Irena's Children*

"Amid chilling tales of the terrible ambiguities of war and the treatment and purging of enemies on all sides, Mazzeo offers lightness in her biography of an inarguably dark time through obvious care for her subjects." —*Booklist*, on *The Hotel on Place Vendome*

"Mazzeo's resulting book is an enticing stew of biography and history." —*USA Today*, on *The Widow Clicquot*

*A complete manuscript is available for submission and should be available for translation in Fall 2025.*

*DGB controls U.K. and translation rights.*

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### PHILIP AUERSWALD

Philip Auerswald is a professor at the Schar School of Policy and Government. His work is about entrepreneurship, technology, and innovation in a global context. He is most recently the author of *The Code Economy: A Forty-Thousand-Year History* (Oxford University Press, 2017), a book about how the advance of code has driven the development of human society over the span of millennia. He currently serves as the cochair and executive director of the Global Entrepreneurship Research Network, an initiative of the Kauffman Foundation. He is also the cofounder and coeditor of *Innovations*, a quarterly journal about entrepreneurial solutions to global challenges published by MIT Press. In June 2013, he led the launch of the National Center for Entrepreneurship and Innovation, an organization dedicated to using the National Mall in Washington, D.C., as a platform to celebrate and support entrepreneurship and innovation. He has blogged and written op-eds for *Harvard Business Review*, *Forbes*, the *International Herald Tribune*, and the *San Francisco Chronicle*; has been quoted in the *Washington Post*, the *Wall Street Journal*, the *Boston Globe*, and *Slate*; and has been interviewed on *CBS News Sunday*, *NPR*, and *Fox*, among other outlets.

#### A PHONE IS A COW

**The Origins of the Mobile Revolution**

**Current Affairs**

**Georgetown University Press/TBD**

Economist and professor Philip Auerswald's **A PHONE IS A COW: The Origins of the Mobile Revolution** shines a revelatory light on the phones in our pockets.

In 50 years, the mobile phone has gone from being an analog communication device demoed on a New York City sidewalk to a ubiquitous digital supercomputer that is arguably the farthest-reaching and most transformative technology in human history.

Drawing on the stories of the pioneers who brought mobile phones to nearly everyone, everywhere, Auerswald describes how great inventions transform the human experience when innovators create new markets to include the previously excluded. He looks not to the familiar, Western titans of tech, but instead the innovators who brought mobile telephony to penetrate markets where landlines were nonexistent or the possession of the fortunate few. Readers will meet the under-recognized figures—mostly brown and black—who have had a greater positive impact on the lives of most people on the planet than the highest-net-worth A-list of entrepreneurs. In doing so, he proposes new ways of understanding.

*A complete manuscript is available for submission and should be available for translation in late 2025.*

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### DR. ANNA R. CHAMBERS

Dr. Anna Chambers is an instructor in Otolaryngology–Head and Neck Surgery, Harvard Medical School and an Investigator in the Eaton-Peabody Laboratories at Massachusetts General Eye and Ear. She earned her PhD in neurobiology from Harvard Medical School under the supervision of Daniel Polley, PhD, where she found that, after damage to the auditory nerve, the brain ‘amplifies’ remaining inputs from the ear to maintain our ability to hear. She subsequently completed postdoctoral fellowships at Johannes Gutenberg University Mainz and the University of Oslo, studying neural mechanisms of memory and sleep. Her current research seeks to understand how sleep plays a role in the recovery and preservation of sound perception in the brain after damage to the inner ear or auditory nerve. Dr. Chambers uses a combination of electrophysiological and optical techniques to measure and manipulate neural activity. Her long-term goal is to understand how the brain’s innate mechanisms for regulating activity levels throughout daily life can be harnessed to treat hearing disorders.

#### **CIRCUIT BREAKER**

**A Day In The Life Of A Neuroscientist**

**Popular Science**

**Abrams Press/Fall 2026**

Our brain is the source of our thoughts, feelings, dreams and actions, and in recent decades, neuroscience has revealed fascinating details about how it works. But how do we know what we know?

In **CIRCUIT BREAKER**, Harvard-trained neuroscientist Dr. Anna Chambers takes you inside a state-of-the-art brain research laboratory. Here, you learn how cutting edge tools can manipulate memories, make brain cells glow in the dark, and record signals from thousands of neurons at once. From the delicate electrodes that enable a child to hear for the first time, to the genetic engineering techniques that allow us to control the brain with lasers, **CIRCUIT BREAKER** weaves down-to-earth explanations of the powerful tools of neuroscience with the little-known stories of the scientists who helped to create them.

In the rapidly expanding field of neuroscience, unprecedented discoveries may be “all in a day’s work,” and thus it is through the structure of a typical (but altogether wondrous) day—from breakfast with her toddler to peering into “a rig” and marveling at the elegant branches of a living brain cell—Chambers invites us into spaces where few non-scientists ever venture. Chambers leavens her lessons in neuroscience with details from her own often grueling journey to becoming a researcher. As a first-generation college student, a woman and a mother in a field that is still overwhelmingly male and privileged, her perspective is an unusual one, and she is deeply committed to mentoring aspiring scientists, improving scientific literacy and dispelling the many myths about the “black box” of the brain.

*A proposal is available for submission. A complete manuscript should be available for submission in Summer 2025 and for translation in 2026.*

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### DAVID HANSCOM

David Hanscom is an orthopedic surgeon who practiced complex spine surgery for 32 years in Seattle, Washington, and Sun Valley, Idaho. His expertise in healing chronic pain emerged from his relentless search for answers to his own challenges as a result of suffering from chronic pain and recurring intrusive thoughts. As he applied what he was learning to his spine practice, many of his surgical patients began to heal. He presented the healing principles he learned in his self-published book, *Back in Control: A Surgeon’s Roadmap Out of Chronic Pain*, published in 2012 with a second edition in 2016, which together sold over 50,000 copies. His weekly email list has more than 11,000 followers; his *Back in Control* radio podcast has over 100,000 listens, and he is active on social media. David quit his clinical practice in 2018 to bring these healing concepts into the mainstream awareness.

#### **BACK IN CONTROL**

**Health**

**Chelsea Green/October 2025**

There is no need to spend billions of dollars looking for a cure for chronic pain. The solutions have been known for decades with many people breaking free from its grip. Unfortunately, mainstream medicine has and continued to ignore the physiological and

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neuroscience data that has revealed the answers. Chronic pain is a complex neurological problem, which is, "....an embedded memory that becomes linked with more and more life experiences, and the memory can't be erased."

**BACK IN CONTROL** provides a framework for you to understand the nature of chronic pain and will allow you to find your own solution based on well-established practices. Since it is a complex problem and you are a unique human being, the one person that can solve it is you. The principles apply to chronic pain involving in any part of the body or organ system. The process evolved from the author's own severe 15-year experience with chronic pain.

*A complete manuscript is available for submission and should be available for translation in Summer 2025.*

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## PRIYANKA KUMAR

Priyanka Kumar is a filmmaker and the author of *Conversations With Birds*. Widely praised as a landmark book, it was a finalist for the John Burroughs Medal for a distinguished book of nature writing that combines scientific accuracy, firsthand fieldwork, and excellent natural history writing, and a 2023 CLMP Firecracker Award Finalist for a book that makes a significant contribution to our literary culture. The book is the inspiration behind a new documentary series, "Wonder," in which Kumar is featured. An acclaimed naturalist who has been compared to Rachel Carson and Aldo Leopold, Kumar has written for the *New York Times*, the *Washington Post*, and *Los Angeles Review of Books*, among others. She has been featured on *CBS News Radio*, *Yale Climate Connections*, and *Oprah Daily*, and her awards include an Alfred P. Sloan Foundation Award, a New Mexico/New Visions Governor's Award, an Aldo Leopold residency, a Canada Council for the Arts Grant, and an Academy of Motion Pictures Arts and Sciences Fellowship. Kumar holds an MFA from the University of Southern California's School of Cinematic Arts and is an alumna of the Bread Loaf Writers' Conference. She wrote, directed, and produced the feature documentary, *The Song Of The Little Road*, starring Martin Scorsese and Ravi Shankar—which premiered at Telluride and is in the permanent collection of the Academy of Motion Pictures Arts and Sciences. Kumar taught at the University of California Santa Cruz and the University of Southern California and serves on the Advisory Council of the Leopold Writing Program.

### THE LIGHT BETWEEN APPLE TREES

Nature

Island Press/September 2025

Writing in the signature format of her acclaimed *Conversations with Birds*, naturalist and filmmaker Priyanka Kumar blends stirring personal narratives with immersive journeys and robust natural history in her new book, **THE LIGHT BETWEEN APPLE TREES**. A lyrical microhistory of apples, which are closely connected to the history of humankind, **LIGHT** recounts the joys of exploring an array of apples and orchards in gorgeously descriptive language that has been compared to that of Robin Wall Kimmerer, Rachel Carson, and Aldo Leopold.

Over half of the sixteen thousand apple varieties once found in the U.S. have disappeared, along with their forest-like orchards, supplanted by monoculture, a profound cultural and ecological loss. The blighted fate of apples and trees mirrors our own natural illiteracy; we no longer read the land like a storybook and miss the essential wisdom the land once gave us. Painting a singular map of our apple past and future, of wild apple trees, old-growth forests, and diverse historic orchards, Kumar shines a light on how we can reenter forgotten landscapes, read the land, and restore our broken relationship with nature. Kumar takes readers on expeditions from her home in the American Southwest, to the Pacific Northwest and around the country, and to the very birthplace of apples in Kazakhstan, meeting farmers, scientists, and searchers and rescuers of lost apples. A call to action, **LIGHT** stretches the hearts and minds of readers toward deeper ways of engaging with nature and the land.

"A deeply meditative book in the vein of Robin Wall Kimmerer's *Braiding Sweetgrass*, Priyanka Kumar's **THE LIGHT BETWEEN APPLE TREES** begins with her relationship with these most beloved and widely cultivated of life-giving fruit trees. She then takes us along on intimate explorations of historic orchards and examines how deepening our ecological consciousness today could help restore the health of our ailing forests." —Sy Montgomery, author of *The Soul Of An Octopus*

*A proposal is available for submission. A complete manuscript should be available for submission in Spring 2025 and should be available for translation in Summer 2025.*

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**BONNIE BUCKNER**

Bonnie Buckner, PhD, is founder and head of the International Institute for Dreaming and Imagery, where she trains practitioners, incubates social change works with performers and artists, develops programs for leadership and government, and works with young dreamers in the Dream Your World Kids program. She is lead faculty and senior fellow at George Washington University’s Center for Excellence in Public Leadership, where her work is used in the eCo Leadership Coaching Certification Program.

**THE SECRET MIND**

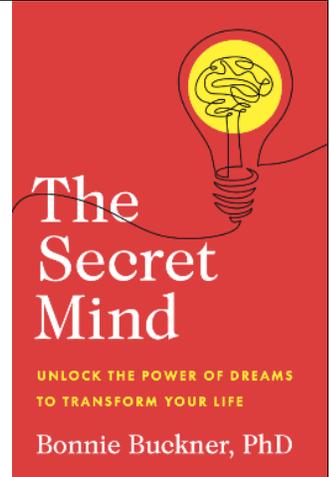
**Unlock the Power of Dreams to Transform Your Life**

**Self-Help**

**Urano/July 2025**

Dreams are the key to powerful transformation. **THE SECRET MIND: Unlock the Power of Dreams to Transform Your Life** uses a little-known ancient spiritual system of imagery and dreaming, together with insights from modern neuroscience, to guide you to overcome mental blocks and break old stuck patterns of thought and behavior. In **THE SECRET MIND**, you learn the landscape of dreams, the body’s personal language of dreaming, and the physical laws of dreaming (how the body-mind experiences space and time), all of which helps you navigate your dream space—and change your life—as no other method can.

Internationally recognized psychologist and creative dreamwork expert Dr. Bonnie Buckner is one of the few individuals trained in the ancient system, and she’s the only one to adapt it to dream interpretation for contemporary life. Now after teaching her own method privately for over twenty years to creative individuals and business organizations, Dr. Buckner makes it widely available for the first time in **THE SECRET MIND**. With a Life Plan that includes numerous exercises for understanding dreams and solving their mysteries, and with fascinating accounts of her personal and clients’ dream journeys, **THE SECRET MIND** will enhance your creativity, help you manifest and finish projects, and expand your perceptions to imagine solutions to personal, social, and global challenges.



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**PERDITA FINN**

Perdita Finn is author of *Take Back The Magic: Conversations With The Unseen World* and the co-founder, with her husband Clark Strand, of the non-denominational international fellowship The Way of the Rose, which inspired their book *The Way of the Rose: The Radical Path of the Divine Feminine Hidden in the Rosary*. In addition to extensive study with Zen masters, priests, rabbis, shamans, and healers, she apprenticed with the psychic Susan Saxman, with whom she wrote *The Reluctant Psychic*. Finn now teaches popular workshops on Getting to Know the Dead, in which participants are empowered to activate the magic in their own lives with the help of their ancestors. She lives with her family in the moss-filled shadows of the Catskill Mountains.

**MOTHERS OF MAGIC**

**Recovering the Love at the Heart of the World**

**Spirituality**

**Running Press/May 2026**

This inspiring new book, **MOTHERS OF MAGIC: Recovering the Love at the Heart of the World**, furthers Perdita’s ongoing work in ancestral healing. After publishing *Take Back the Magic*, Perdita began teaching a whole separate course called “Mothers of Magic,” in which she helps students explore how to draw on our Ancestral Mothers for help and healing – of ourselves and our planet – in this life. The workshop has been increasing in popularity, podcasters have been reaching out, as we all have mothers around whom we have so many feelings.

In the tradition of feminist spiritual classics such as Merlin Stone’s *When God Was a Woman*, Clarissa Pinkola Estes’s *Women Who Run with the Wolves*, and Riane Eisler’s *The Chalice and the Blade*, and new inspirations such as Sharon Blackie’s *When Women Rose Rooted* and *Hagitude*, and Heatherash Amara’s *Warrior Goddess Training*, Perdita Finn’s **MOTHERS OF MAGIC** takes readers on a journey into deep time to recover an ecological feminism that

Praise for *Take Back the Magic*:

“Finn weaves a spellbinding meditation on how time never runs out for the deceased in prose that alternately enchants and haunts...It’s an affecting ode to the power of the unseen.” –*Publishers Weekly*

“In *Take Back The Magic*, Perdita Finn offers practical, essential advice for those who are seeking deeper connections with their ancestors and the unseen world. Rather than something to be feared or avoided, Perdita demonstrates that the realm of spirit holds gifts for us all, and can be easily accessed when we trust our intuition and listen to the wisdom of the heart. Woven throughout with engaging, sometimes wrenching stories from Perdita’s life experience, *Take Back The Magic* is a riveting read that will remain with you long after you finish it.” –Liz Childs Kelly, host of the *Home to Her* podcast and author of *Home to Her: Walking the Transformative Path of the Sacred Feminine*

“Perdita Finn’s startling, exquisitely written memoir invites us to rethink our relationships with the dead and the invisible world that

<p>transforms our relationship to our own bodies and the body of this world.</p> <p>Full of rich practices for summoning the grandmothers and other divine feminine energies, with moving stories of workshopers’ breakthroughs from these practices, and with powerful and sometimes humorous experiences from Perdita’s own life, <b>MOTHERS OF MAGIC</b> is a compelling, empowering journey of self-discovery and ancestral discovery.</p>	<p>they inhabit. I picked up <i>Take Back The Magic</i> as a diehard agnostic regarding ghosts, spirits, and posthumous communication with the dearly departed. Finn’s intelligence and integrity opened my eyes to the possibility that I’ve been mistaken. This book is a memento mori for the thinking classes, revelatory, poignant and lucidly observed. I recommend it highly to anyone interested in the mysteries of life and death, and what happens after we leave this world." –Mark Matousek, author of <i>Lessons from an American Stoic: How Emerson Can Change Your Life</i></p>
<p><i>A proposal is available for submission. A complete manuscript should be available for submission in Spring 2025, and should be available for translation in Spring 2026.</i></p>	
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<p style="text-align: center;"><b>TIM CARPENTER</b></p>	
<p>Tim Carpenter is a Retired Supervisory Special Agent and former head of the FBI’s elite Art Crime Team, and has been a key figure in the U.S. Government’s efforts to combat cultural heritage crimes for well over a decade. During his FBI career, Tim was responsible for overseeing some of the most challenging and successful art crime matters in U.S. history. With 26 years of experience in local and federal law enforcement, including 16 years working art crimes, Tim was well known for leading innovation throughout the art crime community, building strong partnerships, and had a reputation for getting things done. Tim is a former bomb technician and police officer, and he served nearly twelve years in the US Air Force and Air Force Reserve as an Explosive Ordnance Disposal Technician. Featured in several documentary movies, he has also conducted more than 100 interviews for television, print, radio, podcasts, and other media formats, including <i>Vanity Fair</i>, the <i>Washington Post Magazine</i>, NPR, CBS, and more. He has also served as a speaker, lecturer, and panelist at prestigious venues, including Congress, the Smithsonian, George Washington University Law School. Tim initiated and led the FBI’s largest recovery of stolen and looted cultural property in the Bureau’s history during the landmark Don Miller case, a turning point for how the FBI approaches sensitive cultural matters, particularly related to Native American tribes. For his efforts in the repatriation process of ancestral remains and historic objects, Carpenter received the Public Service Award from the Society for American Archeology. He is also the recipient of the FBI Director’s Award for Excellence– the highest award in the FBI. Now retired from the FBI, Tim is the founder and Managing Director of Argus Cultural Property Consultants, a full-service firm dedicated to the protection and preservation of the world’s cultural heritage.</p>	
<p><b>THE GRAVEROBBER</b></p>	<p style="text-align: right;"><b>True Crime</b></p>
<p><b>Harper Horizon/October 2025</b></p>	
<p>As FBI Lead Investigator, and a former deputy sheriff and former Air Force Explosive Ordnance Disposal Technician in Iraq, Tim Carpenter has seen a lot. But nothing shook him to his core quite like the contents of the Midwestern basement of Don Miller, a “collector” of artifacts – and human remains.</p>	
<p>Part true crime narrative, part procedural, part cultural history, <b>THE GRAVEROBBER</b> recounts Carpenter’s spectacular discovery: 42,000 artifacts in a secret illegal collection including nearly 500 ancestral remains. For over 50 years, Miller, a brazen Midwestern graverobber, looted Native American, Chinese, Haitian, and other world cultures, ripping sacred objects and people from hallowed ground, desecrating sites, and harming communities across the globe.</p>	
<p><i>The Lost City of the Monkey God</i> meets <i>Priceless</i> as Carpenter and his team race against the clock to identify and return the ancestors, soul jars, and gods to their descendants and original homes—and deal with the consequences. Working in partnership with tribal leaders who advise on the proper handling of their forebears’ remains, the team of archeologists, anthropologists, and forensic scientists repatriates a staggering number of artifacts and people to their homelands.</p>	
<p>Throughout, the spirits of the dead make themselves felt to the team, as tribal leaders warned they would. Carpenter’s young daughter falls gravely ill and is hospitalized for a month; family members pass suddenly; others are struck with serious and life-threatening problems, one after another.</p>	
<p>But ultimately the efforts of the team and the tribes change the Bureau – and the course of history – in their unprecedented repatriation of antiquities and ancestors, which continues today, culminating in a profound ceremony of return and restoration of a measure of justice and dignity to the wronged.</p>	
<p><i>A proposal is available for submission. A complete manuscript should be available for submission in Spring 2025, and should be available for translation in Summer 2025.</i></p>	
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## SAMANTHA STEIN

Samantha Stein Psy.D. is a forensic psychologist who specialized in sex offender and addiction treatment, court-ordered evaluations, and court testimony for nearly 3 decades. The author of a popular PsychologyToday.com column with over 2.2 million reads, her writing has been published in numerous outlets, including *Flaunt Magazine*, *The Awakenings Review*, *Anxy Magazine*, and *The Guardian*. A frequent speaker and teacher, she has presented at numerous conferences. She is also an avid photographer whose work has been exhibited in several small shows and has sold to collectors and individuals. She lives with her family in the San Francisco Bay Area and can be found online at [samantha-stein.com](http://samantha-stein.com).

### EVIL AT OUR TABLE

True Crime

**Kensington/August 2025**

Written from a never-before-seen perspective, a real-life *Mindhunter*'s provocative true crime memoir takes readers inside the prison interview room—and the minds—of serious sex offenders, as she assesses the fates of those charged with the most disturbing acts imaginable.

Once inside the prison system, how can a pathological, sexual sadist, who needs to be confined to a mental institution, be distinguished from the perpetrator of a sexual crime who is unlikely to ever transgress again? And who can say?

Working under California's Sexually Violent Predator Law, Samantha Stein, PsyD, faces such offenders alone, one by one, in a prison interview room. As a forensic psychologist, her high-stakes decisions can determine the difference between a life lived back in society or one condemned to indefinite incarceration. For Dr. Stein, despite the science she relies on, it's a profound responsibility that comes with a prayer: "Please don't let me have been wrong."

Confronting evil, yet never approaching an evaluation with damning preconceptions, Dr. Stein opens her mind to her subjects' life stories—their crimes, their grim pathologies, their frustrations and demons, their childhoods, their sociopathic reasoning, and often, too, their genuine and civilized regret. She doesn't hesitate to hold them accountable, but she acknowledges their humanity. She studies the face, eyes, posture, and the lies, yet admits that predicting human behavior can be dicey.

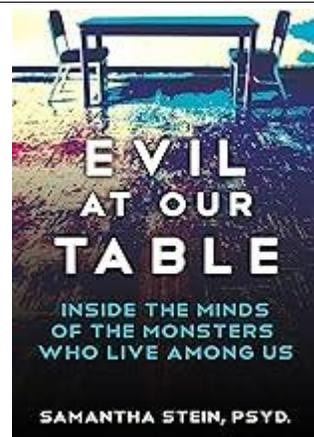
Part forensics, part exploration of human nature, **EVIL AT OUR TABLE** is the first in-depth account by a treatment provider and evaluator in the field. Here, Dr. Stein not only reveals the details of specific cases—and the outcomes—but also delves into the sometimes-overwhelming impact on her personal life.

Told with empathy, uncompromising honesty, and insight from a unique and experienced perspective, in this important book, Dr. Stein investigates salient issues of our time: the intersection of good and evil, crime, punishment, law, and psychology, and our very humanity, as well as how to achieve a sane balance between community safety and civil liberties—all the while facing the monsters among us.

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## COLE NICOLE LEFAVOUR

Cole Nicole LeFavour is an award-winning journalist, fiction and creative non-fiction writer whose stories and essays have appeared in *The North American Review*, *Idaho Wilderness Considered*, *Confluence*, *Sawtooth-White Cloud*, among others. Bits of LeFavour's life and work have appeared in the documentary films *Breaking Through*, *The Legislature*, and *Private Idaho*. Civil disobedience that Cole organized is the subject of the documentary *Add the Words*, and the art film *Mercury*.

### LOVE AND PROTEST

**A True Story of Queer Resistance and Good Trouble in Red America**

Memoir

**Beacon Press/May 2026**

In a state sliding toward the extreme, Idaho's first out LGBTQ lawmaker battled for love and equality. For over 30 years, Cole Nicole LeFavour worked in social justice movements in the American West. Long silenced by the Idaho Legislature, Senator LeFavour left the Capitol to become an organizer and leader of a queer movement of "good trouble" called "Add the Words."

An ideological inverse of *Hillbilly Elegy*, **LOVE AND PROTEST: A True Story of Queer Resistance and Good Trouble in Red America**, is LeFavour's journey through gender, power, and civil disobedience. From anti-apartheid protests in Berkeley to breaking into Nevada's nuclear facility to help end bomb testing to leading more than a hundred people in shutting down the Idaho State Senate, few stories are as compelling in covering the rise and fall of queer protest movements and the high personal cost of civil disobedience.

LeFavour’s vivid writing is shaped by their seven years as a wild-land firefighter and lone backcountry ranger and by decades living in one of the most beautiful – and most politically hostile – states in the nation.

With armed extremism and discrimination against gay and trans people rising, **LOVE AND PROTEST** is both inspirational and cautionary – an evocative and important book for our time.

“So inspiring. So moving. . . One doesn’t need to be queer to feel seen, heard, and empowered. [**Love & Protest**] is a reminder that activists need to believe that the impossible can happen.” –Carole King

*A proposal is available for submission. A complete manuscript should be available for submission in Summer 2025 and should be available for translation in Spring 2026.*

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