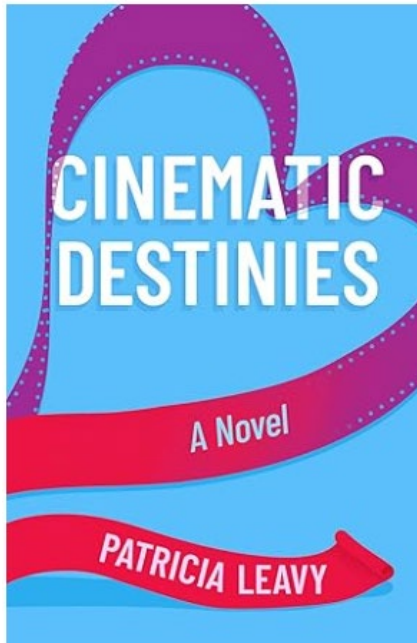




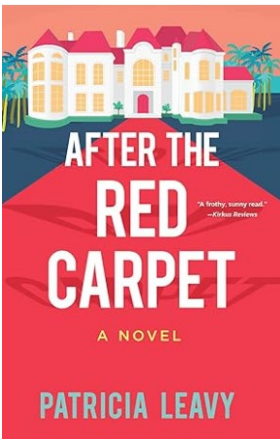
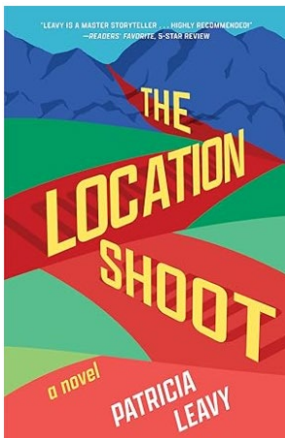
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Fall 2025

**Greg Brandenburgh
Biagi Literary Management**



Other titles in the Red Carpet Romance trilogy



Cinematic Destinies (Book 3 in the Red Carpet trilogy)

A Novel

Patricia Leavy

Selling points:

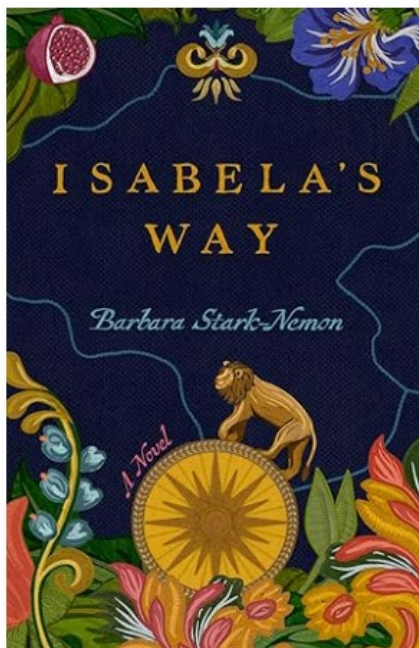
- "... A gentle, heartfelt story of the messy beauty of becoming." —*Kirkus Reviews*
- "... Overall, the writing, the characters, the little nods of sizzle, and the brilliant family dynamic make this book a winner. Very highly recommended." —*Readers' Favorite*, 5-star review
- "... a gorgeous celebration of love, art, and the true meaning of life. I absolutely loved this book! Highly recommended!" —Jessie Voigts, PhD, founder of Wandering Educators
- "*Cinematic Destinies* is a spellbinding ode to love, art, and what it means to live." —Mary E. Weems, author of *Blackeyed*

"For fans of Tessa Bailey and Hannah Grace, *Cinematic Destinies* is a feel-good, contemporary romance about a trio of adult children searching for love and beauty in the shadow of their parents' legendary Hollywood fairy-tale romance.

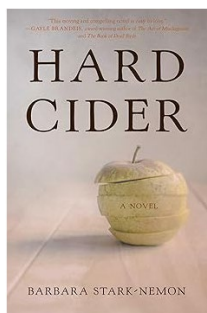
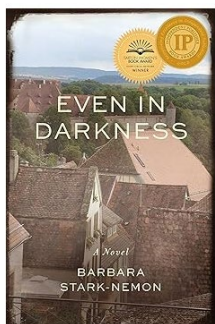
Legendary actor Finn Forrester and philosopher Ella Sinclair Forrester met on the location shoot for Jean Mercier's film *Celebration*. The world has been captivated by their romance since Finn famously proposed on the red carpet at the Cannes Film Festival. As the couple prepares to celebrate their thirtieth wedding anniversary, they wonder if their children will ever find love.

Eldest daughter Betty excels in a medical residency program in New York City and has convinced herself that distancing herself from emotions is the path to success. Youngest son Albert, a recent college graduate, is trying to find his footing in Boston as he struggles with his identity. Free-spirited Georgia, her mother's spitting image and an actress following in her father's footsteps, has been cast in Jean Mercier's final film, mysteriously titled *Beauty*. When she arrives on set in Iceland and meets her costar, sparks fly. Is history repeating itself? How has growing up in the shadow of the world's most iconic love story affected each of the Forrester children?"

About the author: Patricia Leavy is an award-winning, best-selling author. Formerly Associate Professor of Sociology and Founding Director of Gender Studies at Stonehill College, she has published more than forty books. Visit her at <https://patricialeavy.com>.



Also by Barbara Stark-Nemon:



Isabellas Way

Barbara Stark-Nemon

Selling points:

- “Beautifully written, this unforgettable blend of carefully-researched history and fictional intrigue will keep readers spellbound...”—Jenni Ogden, author of *Dancing with Dragons*.
- “...a beautiful tapestry of stories... elegantly embroidered...a meticulously researched and elegantly written novel...”—Mary Morris, author of *Gateway to the Moon*.
- “This moving, deeply researched tale has the pace of a thriller, all while examining questions of loyalty, love, and truth.”—Rebecca D’Harlingue, author of *The Lines Between Us* and *The Map Colorist*
- “Stark-Nemon . . . handles things expertly, offering strong characters. . . . A well-told story with all of the requisite narrow escapes and memorable characters.”—*Kirkus Reviews*

About the Book:

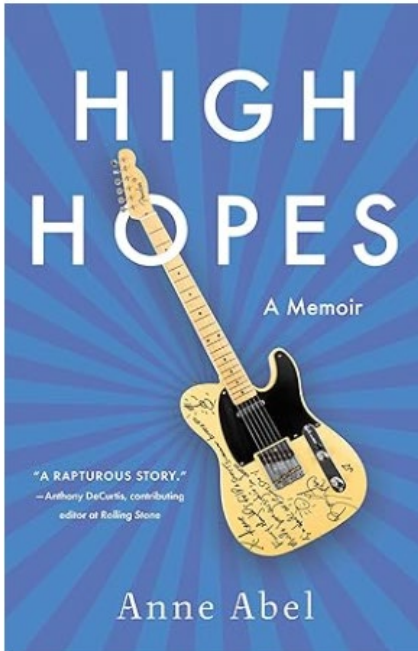
For fans of Ruta Sepetys’s *Salt to the Sea*, this coming-of-age tale of one fourteen-year-old girl’s escape from early-seventeenth-century Portugal’s Inquisition, achieved with the help of a clandestine band of allies, will thrill and inspire.

In early-seventeenth-century Portugal, Spain, France, and Germany, dangers are plentiful—especially for those of Jewish heritage. Non-Catholics have been expelled from Spain, and the Inquisition has now come to Portugal to impose its prohibitions. Fourteen-year-old Isabela, an obedient “New Christian” with a talent for needlework, believes she has nothing to fear from the Inquisition. But when a mysterious woman arrives with a message from Isabela’s traveling father, the girl must leave her home and embroider her way along the clandestine network of sanctuaries created to conduct Conversos, or secret Jews, to safety.

A host of supporters and spirit guides, as well as one special young man, assist Isabela as she escapes the Inquisitors and makes her way across countries and cultures. Along the way, she learns of the danger and importance of her work and is shocked to discover her family’s true origins.

In this enthralling coming-of-age tale of resistance, love, and danger, Isabela employs her talent and fierce determination to find her way despite the powerful forces that buffet her every step of the way.

About the author: Barbara Stark-Nemon is an award-winning author known for her gripping historical and literary fiction. Her works resonate deeply with readers, blending rich narratives and compelling characters to illuminate personal and societal complexities in meaningful ways. She is a graduate of the University of Michigan.



High Hopes

A Memoir

Anne Abel

Selling points:

- “A rapturous story.”—**Anthony DeCurtis, Contributing Editor, *Rolling Stone***
- “A story of inspiration and rediscovery, *High Hopes* is the perfect tonic for our troubled age.”—**Kenneth Womack, author of *Bruce Songs* and *John Lennon 1980***
- “Anne Abel’s solo journey, at the age of 60, to the other side of the world to follow Bruce Springsteen and the E Street Band is an extraordinary Bruce story.” —**Daniel Cavicchi, author of *Tramps Like Us***

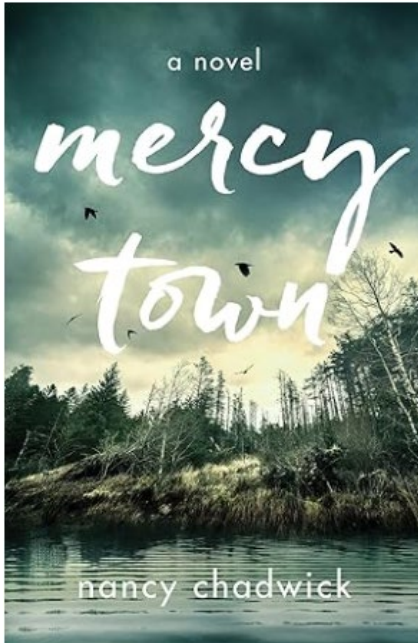
Fans of Cheryl Strayed’s *Wild* will root for Anne Abel as she intrepidly sets out alone for Australia at the age of sixty, seeking to capture some Bruce Springsteen energy and fight off her lifelong, debilitating depression.

At the age of fifty-nine, Anne has never been to a concert. Then, she reluctantly goes to a Bruce Springsteen concert—a man she knows nothing about—to spend time with her son and daughter-in-law. For three-plus hours Bruce Springsteen’s energy, humanity, and enthusiasm lift her out of her lifelong depression and makes her feel alive.

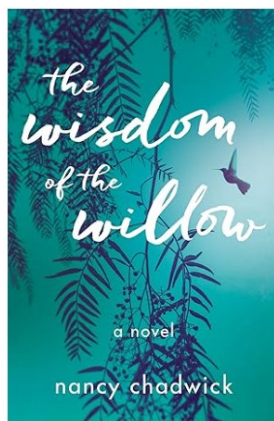
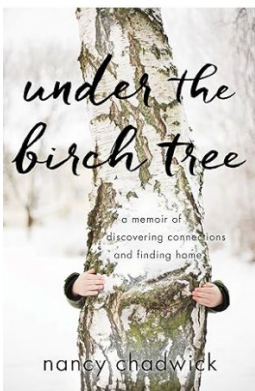
A year later, due to increasing classroom violence where she taught, Anne walks out the door thinking, *I’m never coming back*. But, getting into her car to go home, she realizes that because she suffers with severe recurrent depression, without the structure and focus of teaching she will be at risk for falling into a deep depression. She’s been inpatient twice at a psychiatric hospital, had three regimens of electroconvulsive shock therapy, and tried over twenty medications. Anne needs a new and different plan. Then she remembers: in four months Bruce Springsteen will be touring in Australia. So even though Anne hates to travel and be alone, she books the trip. Eight concerts, five cities, twenty-six days. She hopes that harnessing some of Bruce Springsteen’s energy will keep her out of the abyss.

Anne doesn’t go on this trip to change. But much to her surprise, she returns home a different person.

About the author: Anne Abel is an author, storyteller, and influencer. Her first memoir, *Mattie, Milo, and Me* (2024), about unwittingly rescuing an aggressive dog, was inspired by her Moth StorySLAM win in New York City. She holds an MFA from the New School for Social Research, an MBA from the University of Chicago, and a BS in chemical engineering from Tufts University. She lives in NYC.



Also by Nancy Chadwick:



Mercy Town

A Novel

Nancy Chadwick

Selling points:

- Chadwick sets her poignant ode to grief and healing in a small town in north Wisconsin, so richly detailed you can almost taste the diner's coffee and smell the forest's piney floor."—**Diane Botnick, author of *Becoming Sarah***
- "This heartwarming, tender story of letting go and forgiveness is beautifully told.."—**Céline Keating, *The Stark Beauty of Last Things***
- "With the language of a poet and the precision of a journalist, Chadwick artfully unfolds an unforgettable tale of family, unspeakable grief, and the glory of the human capacity for forgiveness."—**David W. Berner, author of the award-winning novella *The Islander***

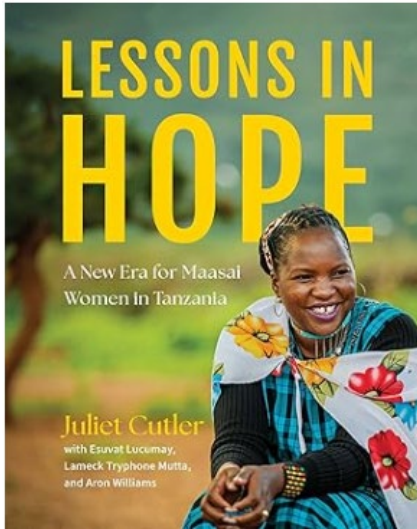
For fans of Ann Patchett and Louise Erdrich, a contemporary women's fiction novel set in northern Wisconsin about one grief-stricken family's journey toward redemption and forgiveness in a rural town divided by the past.

After years away, Margaret Payne returns to her rural northern Wisconsin hometown on a work assignment, only to find it still haunted by the tragic accidental shooting of her younger brother, Bean. Amidst the lingering pain, Margaret uncovers plans for a development on Dell Landing, a hill home to generations of Indigenous people—including Mr. Kipp, the reclusive man responsible for Bean's death.

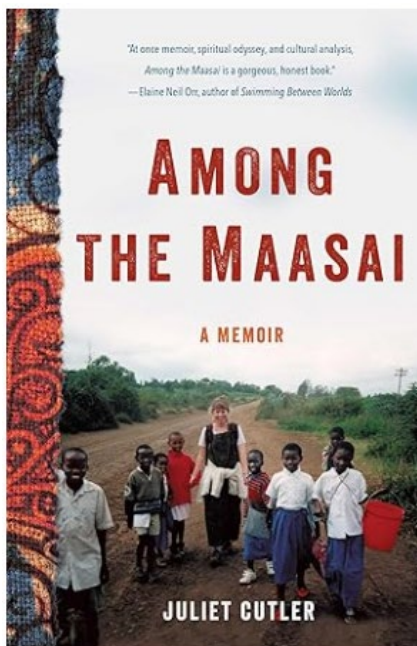
With her mother trapped in denial, her father consumed by anger, and a town bitterly divided, Margaret must confront both the past and the present, rising tensions. Facing Mr. Kipp will test everything she believes, but before it's over, Margaret will discover the freeing power of unconditional forgiveness—even for her brother's killer.

A poignant, redemptive tale, *Mercy Town* reminds us how forgiveness, even in the deepest sorrow, heals wounds, binds us as human beings, and remains truly unconditional.

About the author: Nancy Chadwick is an essayist, memoirist, and fiction writer. She is the author of *Under the Birch Tree: A Memoir of Discovering Connections and Finding Home* and *The Wisdom of the Willow*. Nancy and her husband reside in Glenview, Illinois.



Also by Juliet Cutler:



Lessons in Hope

A New Era for Maasai Women in Tanzania

Juliet Cutler

Selling points:

- Resilient Maasai women share how education changed their lives.
- Insight into Maasai culture, struggles, and victories.
- Empowered graduates lead in education, healthcare, and government.
- Highlights poverty, forced marriages, and gender-based violence.
- Book proceeds support Maasai girls' education.

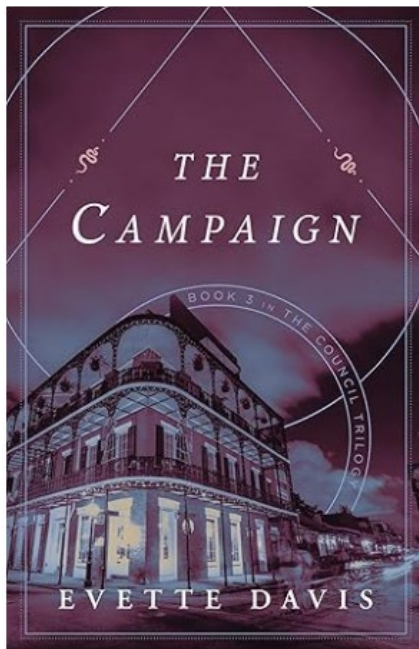
For readers inspired by Margaret Busby's *New Daughters of Africa*, Juliet Cutler presents a stunning testament to a group of Maasai women who are claiming their voices and shaping a future of lasting change.

In this inspiring collection of interviews and portraits, over twenty Maasai women share the ways education has transformed their lives by giving them the tools to overcome poverty and empowering them to make profound differences in their communities.

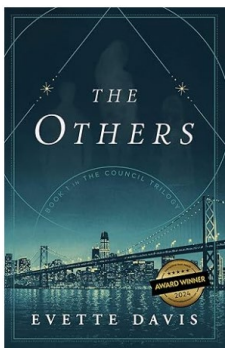
Through their stories, the women featured in *Lessons in Hope* lay bare the overwhelming challenges many Maasai women and girls continue to face. For some, hunger hovers nearby, only one bad drought away. Many must raise children without running water or electricity. Most struggle to gain a basic education, see a doctor, or earn an income. And too many Maasai girls still endure female genital mutilation, early forced marriages, and other forms of violence.

Yet these remarkable women have overcome the odds. As graduates of the first school for Maasai girls in East Africa, these thriving leaders now hold positions in education, health care, nonprofits, government, and business. Their stories reveal a cadre of Maasai women working toward positive change within their own culture and offering a compelling, optimistic vision for the future.

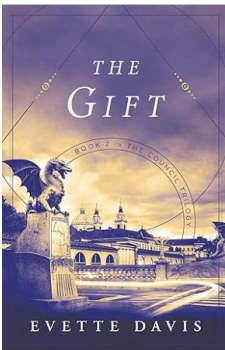
About the author: Juliet Cutler is a writer and exhibit designer for museums, parks, and cultural centers around the world. In 1999 and 2000, Juliet lived in Tanzania, where she taught English at the first school for Maasai girls in East Africa. She recounts her experiences during those years in her award-winning first book, *Among the Maasai*. Juliet regularly returns to Tanzania to support causes that uplift Maasai women and girls. She lives near Atlanta.



Book 1 in the Council Trilogy



Book 2 in the Council Trilogy



The Campaign
Book 3 in the Council Trilogy
Evette Davis

Praise for The Council Trilogy:

“... she skillfully weaves fantastical elements with politics, society, and history. The result is a love letter to San Francisco and fantasy...” —IndieReader

“Davis combines her inside knowledge of Bay Area politics with a gripping tale of vampires and shape-shifters that leaves us never quite looking at the city the same way again.” —David Callaway, former Editor-in-Chief, *USA Today*

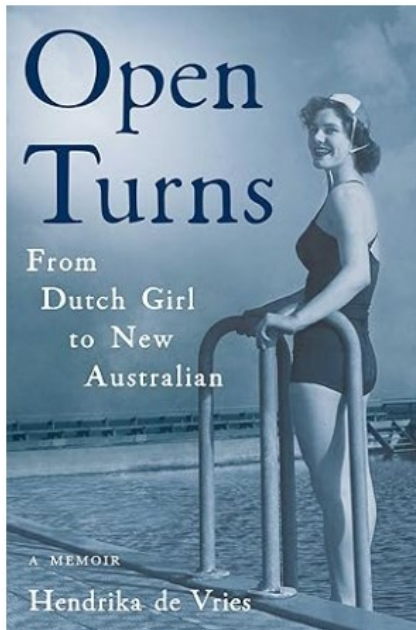
For fans of *A Discovery of Witches*, this taut, steamy final installment of The Council Trilogy follows Olivia as she attempts to keep an old nemesis from seizing control of the White House through dark magic—and to keep her loved ones alive.

In this third and final installment of The Council Trilogy, political consultant Olivia Shepherd has scarcely had time to unpack after returning home from a harrowing assignment overseas when she’s offered a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity: help elect a woman president. Knowing the assignment will put her squarely in the path of an old nemesis, Olivia is resolved to refuse—until she learns the stakes are much higher than they seem.

Reunited with William, Josef, and the rest of her inner circle, Olivia soon learns that her opponent’s use of ancient, dark magic to capture the White House is threatening the very fabric of the universe. But it’s only when her father falls victim to an unspeakable attack that she realizes she must put an end to Stoner Halbert once and for all.

With no time to spare, Olivia assembles an elite supernatural advance team and sets off on the campaign trail. Along the way, she encounters a new mentor, family she never knew existed, and a band of deadly supernatural mercenaries she thought she’d left behind. Meanwhile, politics take a deadly turn inside the Council—making Olivia wonder if everyone in her inner circle, including her, will survive this trial.

About the author Evette Davis is a science fiction and fantasy writer. She is the author most recently of *48 States*, a semi-finalist in the 2023 Publisher’s Weekly BookLife Prize, and which Kirkus named one of the Best Indie Books of 2022. In 2023 and 2017, Friends of the San Francisco Public Library honored Davis as a Library Laureate. Her work has also been published in the *San Francisco Chronicle*. She divides her time between Sun Valley and San Francisco.



Open Turns

From Dutch Girl to New Australian
Hendrika de Vries

Selling points:

- "...a beautifully told coming-of-age story...an insightful portrait of a young woman finding her way in a new country, in her sport, and in herself."—Vicki Valosik, author of *Swimming Pretty: The Untold Story of Women in Water*
- "... I loved this book and want to hear the sequel!"—Radhule Weininger, PhD, MD, clinical psychologist, teacher of mindfulness practices, and author of *Heart Medicine*
- "What makes deVries's memoir so unique is how she vividly shows us the life of a talented athlete fighting for identity and belonging as an immigrant."—Elayne Klasson, author of *Love is a Rebellious Bird*

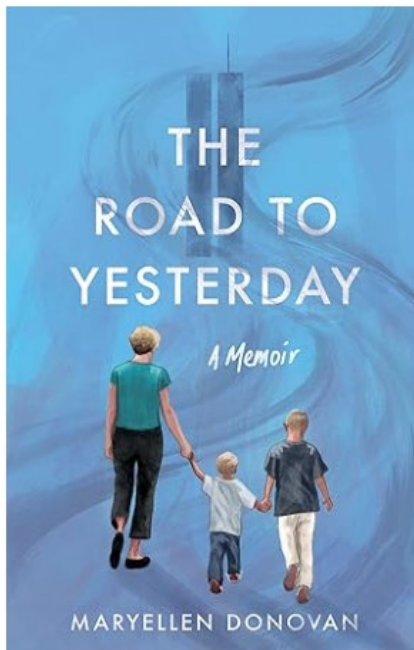
If you believe in the power of dreams and intentions, this inspirational coming-of-age memoir set in 1950s Australia where an immigrant girl swimmer turns challenges and disappointments into opportunities for success is for you.

Henny was just a little girl when she experienced brutal violence and hunger in WWII Amsterdam, but she is now a teenage immigrant swimmer in 1950s Australia where she must learn to turn challenges into success. She is smart, she swims fast, and she has definite opinions about the kind of woman she intends to be.

She hears the timeless Land speak and sees the Southern Cross as a beacon when she walks in the bush with her father. She enjoys swimming star fame and championship victories and turns to the pool in her search to belong, to face fears and dashed hopes, until at every turn she sees more clearly her unique path ahead.

"Intentions are like prayers, if you pay attention they come back as destiny," her mother has taught her. Is it intention or destiny that propels this young New Australian into her future long life?

About the author: Hendrika de Vries is a retired family therapist, a teacher, and a writer. Her life experiences with oppression and resistance in Nazi-occupied Amsterdam, migration, competitive swimming, misogyny in 1950s Australia, and feminism in the US, infuse her writing with historical depth and personal perspective on challenges facing women and anyone deemed other. She is the author of *When a Toy Dog Became a Wolf and the Moon Broke Curfew*, award-winning memoir of her WWII childhood. She lives in Santa Barbara, CA



The Road to Yesterday

A Memoir

Maryellen Donovan

Selling points:

- A love story shattered by 9/11, rebuilt in memory
- From devastation to hope—one woman's emotional odyssey
- Letters, dreams, and unexpected signs from a lost love
- Navigating grief while uncovering life's hidden second chances
- A personal, poignant tribute to resilience and love

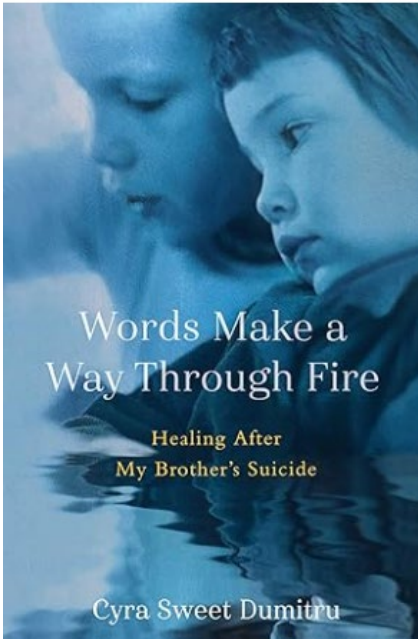
For readers who found comfort in Joan Didion's *The Year of Magical Thinking*, a 9/11 widow's memoir of rediscovering joy and finding love again after the violent loss of her husband.

One sunny Tuesday morning, Maryellen Donovan's beloved husband, Steve Cherry, lost his life in the 9/11 attacks—rocking her to her core, and changing her family forever.

Maryellen's life and love with Steve was all she could have hoped for; in the wake of his death, she was inconsolable. But ultimately, she had no choice but to be strong for her two young sons—and even when deep in the grip of hopeless despair, she found solace in her deep faith and belief that, with the support of friends and family, she would eventually find love and happiness once again. Her route to her happy ending proved long and winding and full of obstacles—cancer, family conflict, even more loss—but she always found a way forward, no matter the setbacks she encountered.

An inspirational story that will provide hope to anyone who's experienced unfathomable loss and loneliness, *The Road to Yesterday* is a testament to the idea that there is always a path to love and joy—if only you're determined enough to keep yourself open to it.

About the author: Maryellen Donovan was born and raised in Stamford, Connecticut. Maryellen lives with her husband, Michael, in Hailey, Idaho.



Words Make a Way Through Fire

Healing After my Brother's Suicide

Cyra Sweet Dumitru

Selling points:

- **A deeply personal journey of healing.**
- **Poetry as medicine-Discover how writing can be a powerful tool for healing**
- **A unique spiritual presence-The book explores the guidance of "Voice," a transcendent force that helps the author heal.**
- **Community and connection through words-Poetry becomes a bridge to understanding and shared healing.**
- **An inspiring transformation-From trauma to empowerment, this memoir is a testament to resilience.**

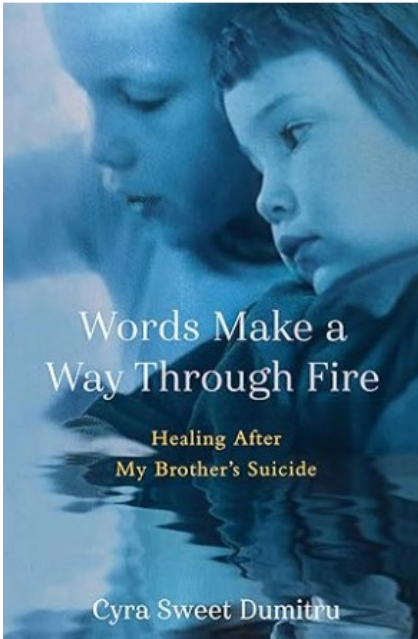
For readers in search of emotional and spiritual healing, a courageous, gripping memoir of one woman's journey of gradually healing her traumatized memory through poetry, swimming, and the intuited guidance of a spiritual presence named Voice.

This is an intimate, courageous memoir of a woman shattered by witnessing her eldest brother's horrific suicide when she was a teenager. The book traces her creative journey of recovery and healing with poetry as a constant companion.

The primary means of Cyra Dumitru's healing process, from age sixteen through adulthood, is writing poetry and journaling. During this decades-long journey, Cyra experiences a transcendent, loving presence called Voice who guides her and helps her imagine wholeness. She finds community with others through the sharing of poems. She studies poetry as craft and as medicine—becoming a published poet with multiple books, an award-winning college instructor of poetry writing, and a certified practitioner of poetic medicine who creates spaces where others can heal through poetry.

In *Words Make a Way through Fire*, Cyra explores the specific medicinal properties of poetry—giving order to interior anxiety, trusting the wisdom within—and invites her brother David to speak through her as he reflects upon his final hours. In doing so, poem by poem, she shifts gradually from being traumatized and feeling haunted to feeling empowered and spiritually expansive.

About the author: **Cyra Sweet Dumitru** is a published poet and instructor of poetry, and one of four certified practitioners of poetic medicine in Texas. Her poems have appeared on the walls of City Hall, been spoken on national public radio and in museums, and appeared in city newspapers and national literary journals. Her collections of poems include *What the Body Knows*, *Listening to Light*, *Remains*, and *Elder Moon*. She offers therapeutic writing circles for adults learning to live with trauma, bereavement, depression, anxiety, and religious trauma. Cyra lives in San Antonio, Texas



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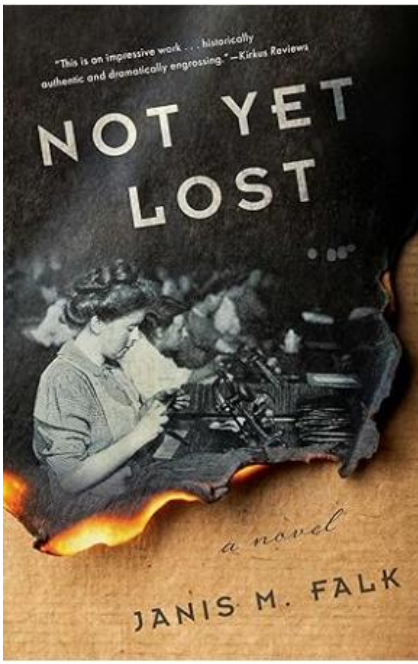
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Not Yet Lost

A Novel

Janis M. Falk

Selling points:

- “Falk’s research is impeccable—she faithfully conveys the volatile and uncertain march for labor rights at the time, highlighting the ways in which the movement was especially precarious for the nation’s immigrant population.” —*Kirkus Reviews*
- “This beautiful book is a love letter to the working class.” —Kim Suhr, author of *Nothing to Lose* and *Close Call* and director of Red Oak Writing
- “Falk engages the reader with the enigmatic history of Eastern Europe, only to relocate her characters into a time of labor turmoil in the first half of the 20th century in the United States.” —Thomas C. Malin, author of *Fire Conditions*

For fans of Kristin Hannah and Jennifer Chiaverini, a novel about a Polish immigrant woman who fights against worker oppression in Depression-era Detroit despite opposition by many—even her own husband.

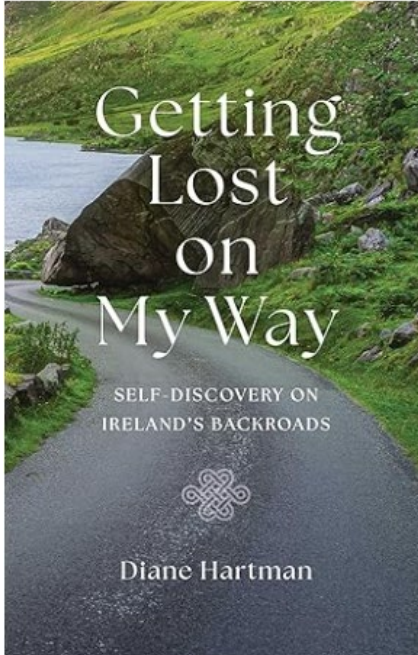
In this gritty, cinematic story, hardworking Florence and her best friend, Basia, are enraged by the poor treatment, low wages, and unsafe working conditions they endure in the factory where they hand-roll cigars. Florence is as reserved and compliant as Basia is fiery and forthright.

During a time when their choices were between bad and worse, this is an underdog story of a woman who must search for her voice in order to lead a labor movement against her husband’s violent efforts to silence her.

Set in turbulent 1937 Detroit, this novel portrays the Eastern European immigrant struggle when difficult economic times, xenophobia, “Fordism,” secret societies, and Communist-led labor organizations buffeted the demographic.

Will Florence and her husband resolve their conflicts both inside and outside the home?

About the author: Janis M. Falk, is a graduate of both University of Michigan and Northwestern University.. She and her husband, Jim, currently live in a home they built by combining two 157-year-old log cabins in Door County, Wisconsin.



Getting Lost on My Way Self-Discovery on Ireland's Backroads

Diane Hartman

Selling points

- Solo journey sparks courage, humor, and self-discovery.
- Ireland's backroads unveil hard truths, fierce trials, and extraordinary triumphs.
- Healing from heartbreak is woven into a tale of adventure and resilience.
- Surprising encounters shape a transformative odyssey across the Emerald Isle.
- A poignant memoir of risk, growth, and unshakable grit awaits.

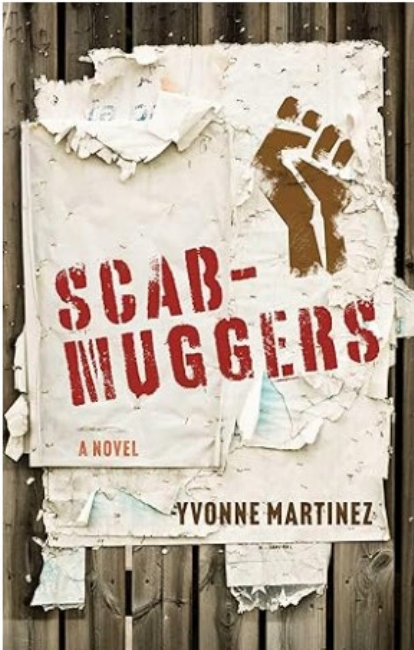
For fans of *McCarthy's Bar*, a debut memoir about a woman's humorous and poignant solo adventures of self-discovery on Ireland's backroads following a painful divorce.

When an introverted, divorced, middle-aged mother and school librarian from the Midwest decides to leave her comfort zone and travel alone to Ireland, her desire to fulfill her dream overcomes her fear as she immerses herself into what will become an adventure of courage and self-discovery.

Motivated by her love of Irish music and Celtic spirituality, along with her desire to find healing from depression and divorce, Diane sets off for Ireland, a country she's been obsessed with for years. Her romantic preconceptions of the Emerald Isle quickly clash with reality, however, and while there she faces many obstacles, including driving the narrow, ill-marked roads throughout the countryside she traverses. Nevertheless, this first sojourn leads to three more trips over the next six years, and she gradually learns to navigate Ireland's back roads—not to mention her own personal and spiritual roads toward self-discovery and acceptance.

This heartfelt and humorous account of Diane's adventures—including meeting author John O'Donohue, hanging out with an Irish rock band, traveling remote roads in search of a hermit nun, and meeting her favorite Irish musician not once but twice—is sure to inspire readers to get outside their own comfort zones and take some rewarding risks of their own

About the author: Diane Hartman is a retired school librarian, photographer, and lover of Ireland. She has received honors for her writing from Midwest Writers Workshop. This is her first book. Diane lives in Indianapolis with her rescued corgi, Winston.



Scabmuggers

A Novel

Yvonne Martinez

Selling points:

- The keenly observant historical novel *Scabmuggers* amplifies the experiences of women in fields dominated by men, demonstrating how activists are not immune to bias and inequity.”—*Foreword Reviews*
- Feminism meets the modern labor movement.
- Historical activism, modern relevance
- Women’s empowerment, systemic injustice
- True story inspired, gripping narrative

For anyone interested in the intersection of feminism and politics comes this inspiring, based-on-a-true-story tale of fighting back against sexism in the labor movement, set against the backdrop of Harvard in the 1990s.

As soon as courses at Harvard begin, Ana, a White female, finds herself being stalked by Aaron, a Black male classmate. Word quickly gets out to the rest of the cohort—but not wanting to get anyone kicked out, Ana refuses to name names. With their program director insisting there’s nothing she can do to intervene if no one will name the perpetrator, the class becomes engulfed in a campaign to protect Ana that splits the group into two camps. Some of the men join the women to fight the harassment; some of the women join the harassers. In short order, the conflict becomes a fight for power that divides along race, sex, LGBTQ, and class lines—mirroring the heartbreaking history of the labor movement, and serving as a precursor to our current political landscape.

A galvanizing behind-the-scenes look at the labor movement of the 1990s, *Scabmuggers* is ultimately a triumphant tale of women’s empowerment. Ana and her friends may be outnumbered—but they won’t go down without a fight.

About the author: Yvonne Martinez is a retired labor negotiator/organizer. She has been published by ZyZZyVa, Crab Orchard Review, Labor Notes, and NPR. Her memoir in essays, *Someday Mija, You’ll Learn the Difference Between a Whore and a Working Woman* was endorsed by Shondaland. Her new book *Scabmuggers* is based on her experience as a National Fellow of the Harvard Trade Union Program in 1994. Yvonne lives in Berkeley, CA..



She Journeys

A Memoir of Heartbreak and Homecoming

Sara May

Selling points:

- “A gripping memoir that reminds us of our ability to overcome the unimaginable.”—**Danette May, author of *Embrace Abundance* and *The Rise***
- “Sarah May’s warrior-like courage in the aftermath of trauma is inspiring, riveting and powerful.”—**Terry Laszlo-Gopadze, editor of *The Spirit of a Woman***
- “I couldn’t put this book down. With every word, my heart healed. Sarah’s wisdom is potent and moves mountains.”—**Marina Triner, somatic expert**

A debut memoir for fans of *Love Warrior*—a candid account of the emotional and psychological pain of infidelity and divorce; and the journey of a lifetime that one woman took to heal.

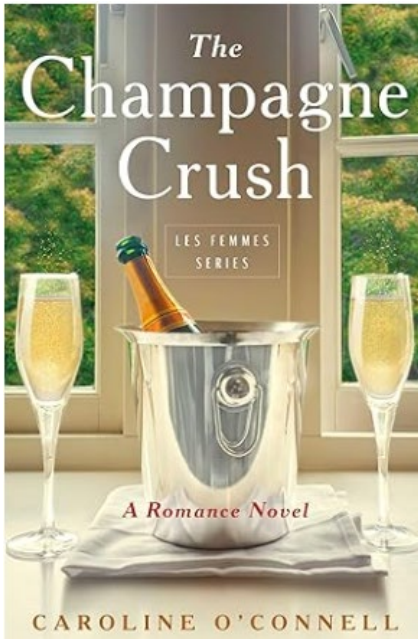
Few things can shatter our hearts like expectations. Sarah expected to live happily ever after. She expected her husband to honor his vows. She expected his military helicopter to land safely. But when the unimaginable occurred and her world unraveled so magnificently, the undoing of her expectations left her on her knees, fighting for her life. When everything we “expect” crumbles like ash after a fire, how do we reconcile what was lost?

One courageous step at a time.

Sarah packed her car, then set out to hike and camp across the country. But pain, codependence, and trauma challenged her as she moved forward. From a sailboat to a yoga studio, a therapist’s couch to a shaman’s ceremony, from selling everything and moving into a van—on the ashes of her former expectations, Sarah rebuilt, from the inside out.

She Journeys is a testament to the transformative power of healing. From darkness to light, from a marriage ended to a life reclaimed, we are reminded that it never matters how we begin. Only that we do. From wounds to wisdom, *She* is every woman who must find her way from heartbreak to homecoming.

About the author: Sarah May is a yoga instructor, Reiki healer, and intuitive.. She and her husband—fellow author Andrew Singer—converted a cargo van and hit the road. They spend their time exploring and writing across America’s public lands. When not on wheels, Houston and San Diego are homebase



The Champagne Crush

A Romance Novel
Caroline O'Connell

Selling points:

- Luxury, love, and sparkling drama
- Jet-setting romance, high-stakes passion
- Champagne dreams, sizzling chemistry
- Sabotage, scandal, and second chances

. Paris, Napa, Bordeaux-love unfolds

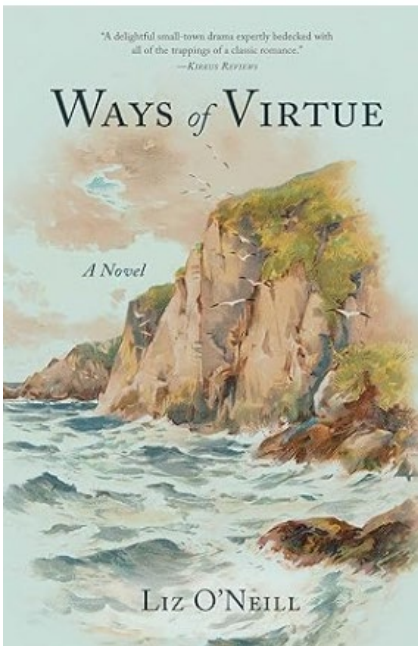
For fans of *The Paradise Problem*, a jet-setting romance about a socialite in over her head in a high-stakes job promoting a new sparkling wine with a difficult boss who wants to see her fail—despite the electric sparks flying between them.

Catherine Reynolds has enjoyed a life of luxury, but her diplomat parents have cut her off financially, leaving her flat broke. She is determined to turn things around and gain her independence—so, when an old family friend offers her a lifeline as a PR consultant for his sparkling wine company, she jumps at the chance. But working with Chris McDermott, the company's no-nonsense president, is anything but easy.

A purist at heart, Chris clashes with Catherine's glitzy marketing flair; still, the chemistry between them is undeniable. As they travel from New York to Napa, Paris, and the Champagne region of France, their partnership blossoms amid high-stakes industry rivalries and a launch that could make or break them.

When sabotage threatens to shatter their dreams, Catherine must dig deep to prove her worth. With the dazzling unveiling of their new sparkling wine in Bordeaux in jeopardy, will she and Chris overcome the challenges of the past and present to secure their future—and find love in the process?

About the author: Maryellen Donovan Caroline O'Connell is the author of six travel guidebooks, including *Every Woman's Guide to Romance in Paris* (Square One Publishers) and *Affordable Paris Hotels* (Travel Smart Press). She has written numerous travel articles for magazines and websites, appeared on national TV, including *The Oprah Winfrey Show*, and been featured in the *Los Angeles Times*. O'Connell led a successful public relations firm specializing in national author tours for twenty years. She is a member of the Authors Guild and lives in Los Angeles, California.



Ways of Virtue
A Novel
Liz O'Neill

Selling Points:

- **Romance defies tradition, sparks intrigue.**
- **High-society drama meets coastal charm.**
- **Love, scandal, and a hurricane.**
- **Dirty Dancing meets Jane Austen.**
- **Summer secrets change lives forever.**

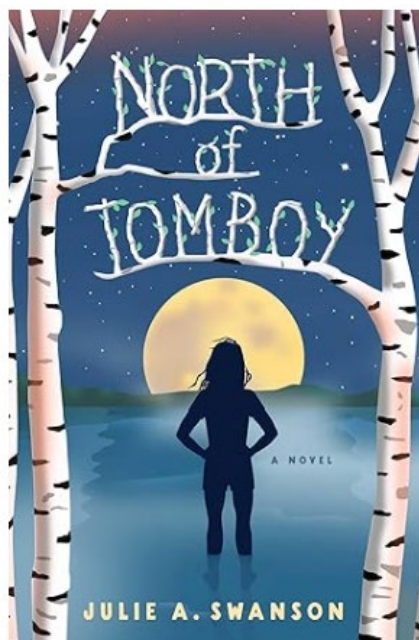
A dazzling literary romance about a young socialite and a smooth-talking pilot who take a chance on each other against the extreme odds orchestrated by their peers and mother nature.

In 1950s New England, being a marriageable young lady means following a certain set of rules. Nineteen-year-old Sabina knows them all too well, thanks to her imposing aunt Poppy, who has already decided how Sabina will spend the season at their summer home in Edgartown, where she'll go to college in the fall, and the type of young man she'll eventually marry. But Sabina has other ideas. And the island, it seems, does too.

Sabina is about to meet the Vineyard's most notorious bachelor: charter pilot Colin Hatch. With a cloudy history, a questionable income, and a reputation for charming every available girl at the yacht club, Colin isn't exactly the traditional match her aunt had in mind. When Sabina takes a chance on him anyway, a complex love triangle emerges, setting Sabina's summer on an entirely different path—not just for this vacation season, but maybe for the rest of her life.

A coming-of-age story woven into a small coastal town's various dramas, *Ways of Virtue* is *Dirty Dancing* meets Jane Austen—complete with a beautiful seaside setting, a high-society wedding in the making, a host of scheming, jealous neighbors, and a once-in-a-lifetime hurricane that's barreling toward them all.

About the Liz O'Neill earned her MFA in Creative Writing, Fiction from the University of North Carolina, Wilmington. She currently works at the Boston College Center for Corporate Citizenship. She lives outside Boston with her husband and son.



North of Tomboy

Julie A. Swanson

Selling points:

- "... an empowering narrative of resilience, creativity, and self-acceptance in which others will no doubt find parts of themselves, too."—*Readers' Favorite*, 5-star review
- "Reminiscent of Judy Blume's work, this coming-into-one's-own story is both universal and searingly specific."—Skyler Schrempp, author of *Three Strike Summer*
- "For anyone who has been told they can't do something or they can't be who they feel they are, *North of Tomboy* is a book that understands."—Kathryn Erskine, author of National Book Award winner, *Mockingbird*
- For kids 8-12

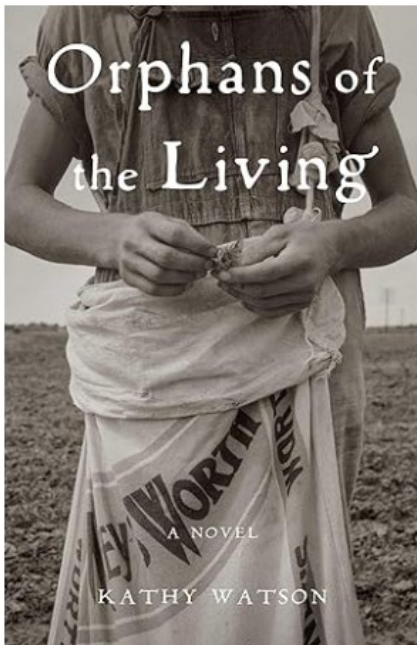
For fans of Kacen Callender, Lin Thompson, and Kyle Lukoff, comes a middle grade novel set in 1973 about a child who feels more boy than girl and is frustrated that people act blind to that when—except for her stupid hair and clothes—it should be obvious!

Shy fourth grader Jess Jezowski turns the tables on her mom when she's given yet another girly baby doll for Christmas. This time, instead of ignoring or destroying it, she transforms it into the boy she's always wanted to be brave, funny little guy named Mickey. Making him talk, Jess finally lets the boy in her express himself.

But when Mickey evolves to become something more like an alter ego whose voice drowns out her own and the secret of him escapes the safety of her family, Jess realizes Mickey's too limited and doesn't allow the boy part of her a big enough presence in the world. She must find a way to blend him into her—so she can be that side of herself anywhere, around anyone.

Jess tries to wean herself from the crutch of Mickey's loud, comical persona, and to get her family to forget about him, but she struggles to do both. What will it take for her to stop hiding behind Mickey and get people to see her for who she truly is? Based on the author's experience growing up on Michigan's rural Leelanau Peninsula in the '70s, *North of Tomboy* includes artwork throughout.

About the author: Julie Swanson grew up in Michigan's "Little Finger," the Leelanau Peninsula, where many of her stories are set, but has lived in Wisconsin, Iowa, New Hampshire, California, and Virginia. For the past twenty-five years she's lived in Charlottesville, VA. Julie writes middle grade and young adult novels and enjoys sports, the outdoors, "making things" (almost any type of art or craft, woodworking), reading, writing, eating, planting trees, and spending time with family



Orphans of the Living: A Novel

Kathy Watson

Selling points:

- Fierce battles, fractured lives, and ruthless truths collide in this gripping tale.
- Gut-wrenching, bold, and unflinching, the story ignites souls with its raw intensity.
- Dark secrets emerge in a world ablaze with injustice.
- “Kathy Watson gives us an unflinching look at how Americans lived, worked, loved, and dreamed in the first half of the 20th century.”—Ann Hood, NYT bestselling author.

Kathy Watson gives us an unflinching look at how Americans lived, worked, loved, and dreamed in the first half of the twentieth century.”—

Ann Hood, *Defiant hearts rise, refusing to yield in an unforgiving era.* A debut historical fiction for fans of Kristin Hannah and John Steinbeck, *Orphans of the Living* follows the Stovall family’s early 20th-century quest for home and redemption as they confront racism, poverty, and inequality across the American South and West.

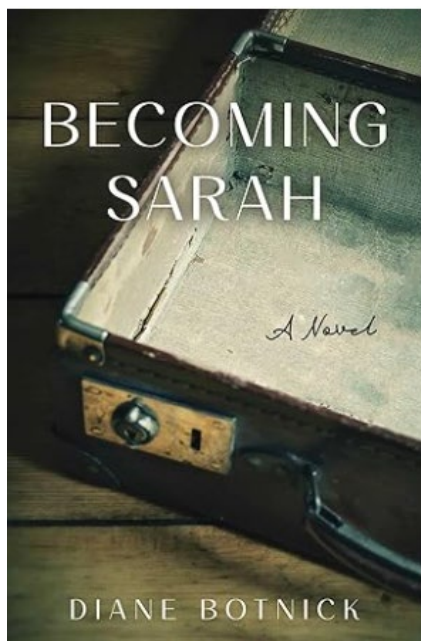
In the shadow of the Great Depression and Jim Crow south of the 1930s, an impoverished white family escapes—with the help of Black sharecroppers—from a vengeful Mississippi plantation overseer intent on lynching them. Arriving in California to start a new life, Barney and Lula Stovall are haunted by the past, the children they’ve left behind, and the daughter they cannot love or protect.

Orphans of the Living follows the peripatetic life of the Stovall family, woven from four parallel stories: Barney and Lula Stovall, and two of their nine children, Glen and Nora Mae. Their California sojourn—from their hardscrabble dairy farm, to the brig at the San Francisco Presidio, to the building of the Golden Gate Bridge—lead them on paths toward each other and forgiveness. But redemption doesn't come to them all.

“...Kathy Watson gives us an unflinching look at how Americans lived, worked, loved, and dreamed in the first half of the twentieth century.”—

Ann Hood, author of *The Stolen Child* and *The Book that Matters Most* (New York Times Bestseller)

About the author: Kathy Watson spent years as a public relations executive and journalist, including six as editor-in-chief of *Oregon Business* magazine. This is her debut novel. She lives in Hood River, Oregon, where she writes, leads a chefs collective, and runs and hikes the Columbia River Gorge



Becoming Sarah

A Novel

Diane Botnick

Selling Points:

- “Full, fresh, and often startlingly funny, this novel offers a new way of looking at the world, and just in time.”—Amy Friedman, author of *Desperado’s Wife*.
- “*Becoming Sarah* is a sweeping generational saga, told in oblique yet powerful prose...”—Helen Benedict, author of *The Good Deed* and *Wolf Season*.
- “A prism-like gaze at the jewel of motherhood...Every sentence is meticulously written and not a word wasted.”—Suzzy Roche, founder of The Roches and author of *The Town Crazy*.

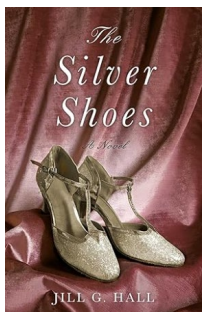
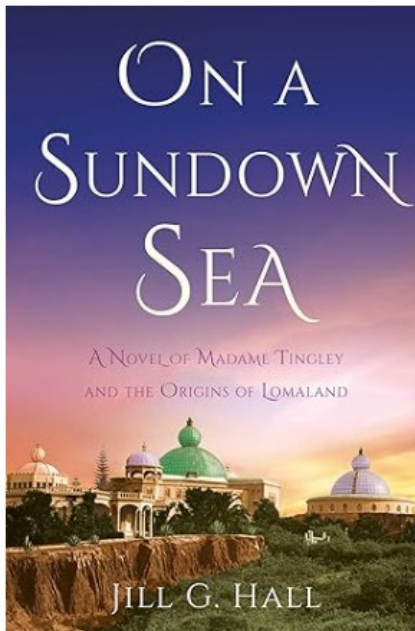
For fans of Claire Messud and Téa Obreht, a debut novel that examines how the Holocaust shapes the life of one tough survivor and the toll it takes on her daughters and granddaughters.

Can you call yourself a Survivor if you don’t know what you survived?

Take Sarah Vogel. Auschwitz is her hometown, yet she has no memory of the place. Not the obscene conditions of her birth, the mother, or the changing cast of faceless women who kept her warm on winter nights. She’s only three when liberated, and with no one to tell her who she is or what she might become, Sarah has no choice but to invent herself. On her journey from Europe, land of the defeated, to America, land of the self-invented, she learns that holes in a person’s past are red flags and that little white lies go down easier than explanations. But eventually those lies will become the wall that hides her true self, the good *and* the bad, from those she loves.

Becoming Sarah is the poignant, sometimes ruthless portrait of an American family—its matriarch, a tough old bird who should never have drawn breath but is bent on lasting forever—and the line of daughters and granddaughters who follow. Each generation standing on the shoulders of the last; each gaining more of the strength, will, and maybe even luck that will make them Survivors in their own right.

About the author: Diane Botnick was born and raised in the Midwest. She called New York City home for years, writing while working for various organizations in support of the arts. *Becoming Sarah* is her debut novel. She and her family currently live in Cold Spring, New York.



On A Sundown Sea

A Novel of Madame Tingley and the Origins of Lomaland

Jill G. Hall

Selling Points:

- ““A masterful blend of history and fiction in every chapter.”—Elizabeth St. John, author of *The Godmother's Secret*.
- “Mesmerizing, smart, and unforgettable, Hall’s Katherine Tingley soars!”—Richard Farrell, author of *The Falling Woman*
- “A captivating novel that illuminates the extraordinary journey of Madame Tingley, and the culmination of her esoteric vision.” —Judy Reeves, author, *When Your Heart Says Go* –

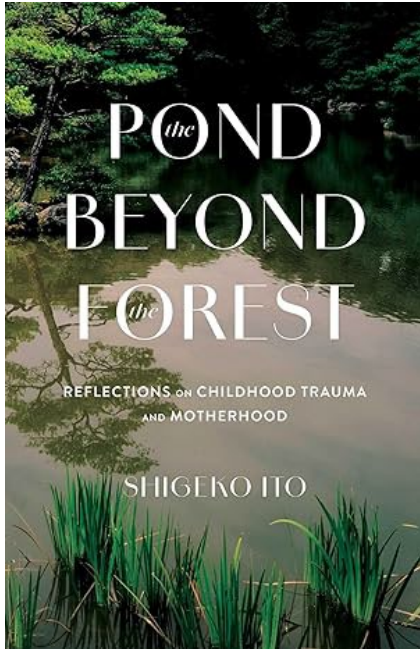
Set at the turn of the 20th century, a mystical, tantalizing novel about a visionary’s journey toward her destiny.

In 1888, Katherine Tingley, a medium and clairvoyant, continues to have a childhood vision of a white city on a sundown sea. While serving the poor at her Do-Good Mission on Manhattan’s East Side, she encounters William Q. Judge, a mesmerist and leader of the American Theosophical Society. He recognizes her potential, convinces her to become his student, and guides her on a spiritual path that could make her mystical dream become a reality.

After Judge’s passing, Katherine assumes leadership of the Society and embarks on a world crusade to spread brotherhood, learn from ancient cultures, and search for a Himalayan Mahatma. In 1900, she moves the Theosophical headquarters to San Diego. Here, she sets out to establish Lomaland—a sacred space of learning, artistry, and divine harmony, built on a barren peninsula yet brimming with hidden potential. As people from around the world converge to share in her vision, they form a community united in purpose to spread enlightenment. However, betrayals, lies, and libels accumulate until a monumental court case ultimately decides her future and the fate of the white city on a sundown sea.

About the author: Jill G. Hall is author of the award-winning Anne McFarland Series about women searching for their place in the world connected by vintage finds. *The Black Velvet Coat*, *The Silver Shoes*, and *The Green Lace Corset* are bestselling book club favorites.

Her tenure as an educator spanned over twenty years. She holds degrees from Point Loma Nazarene University and the University of San Diego, with a doctorate from Northern Arizona University. A native San Diegan, she resides in Point Loma within walking distance of the historic Lomaland property.



The Pond Beyond the Forest
Reflections on Childhood Trauma and Motherhood
Shigeko Ito

Selling Points:

- "a moving story of breaking the cycle and healing intergenerational trauma" Stephen Murphy-Shigematsu, clinical psychologist at Stanford School of Medicine and author of *From Mindfulness to Heartfulness*
- "... this memoir carries the reader along the universal human journey of seeking an authentic sense of self, free from the unconscious, intrusive, and invalidating beliefs embedded during childhood." —Boadie Dunlop, MD, professor of psychiatry Emory University School of Medicine.
- "... turns hilarious and poignant... Many will see themselves in this story and no longer feel alone." —Theo Pauline Nestor, author of *Writing Is My Drink*.

For fans of Stephanie Foo's *What My Bones Know*, a memoir of a middle-aged Japanese immigrant mother's struggle to raise her teenage son and save her marriage when she finds herself triggered by memories of her own childhood trauma as he enters adolescence.

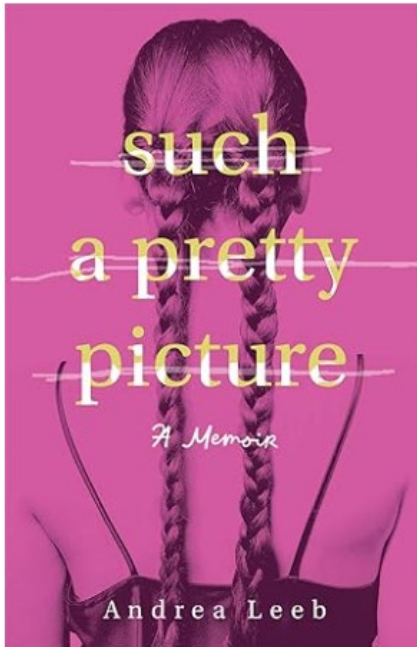
At age twenty-two, Shigeko Ito immigrated to America to escape Japan's rigid society and a neglectful childhood home that landed her in a mental hospital at seventeen. She thrived in her new, healthier environment and thought her traumatic past was all behind her.

Until it wasn't.

Motherhood, she realized, was far more challenging than she could have ever imagined. But it was her son's high school years that proved to be particularly daunting, and that was when her past reemerged—in the form of intense flashbacks to her childhood trauma and tumultuous teenage years. With the stream of daily stresses compounded by menopausal irritability, Shigeko often found herself regressing into a bunker-like mentality with childish coping mechanisms, a pattern that threatened to undo her most prized achievement: her happy family.

Here Shigeko faces her past head-on, taking the reader along on her quest to uncover the root causes of her lifelong struggles—a journey that leads to deeper self-awareness, understanding, and acceptance, and ultimately saves her family and marriage.

About the author: Shigeko Ito grew up in Japan and immigrated to the US in her early twenties to pursue higher education. She holds a PhD in Education from Stanford University. She lives in Seattle, Washington with her husband of thirty years.



Such a Pretty Picture
A Memoir
Andrea Leeb

- **Selling Points:**
"A moving memoir of trauma with an uplifting conclusion."—*Kirkus Reviews* (starred review)
- "... a raw and unsettling narrative that forces readers to think about the consequences of abuse, parental love, and the struggle for self-identity."—*Readers' Favorite*, 5-star review
- "... my favorite kind of memoir, frantically alive, unflinching, breaking my heart in the best ways..."—Joshua Mohr, author of *Model Citizen*
- "beautifully rendered with heartbreaking sensory detail. Her journey from a daughter betrayed to a young woman redeemed haunts as much as it inspires."—Elle Johnson, Executive Producer of *Bosch*, and author of *An Officer's Daughter*

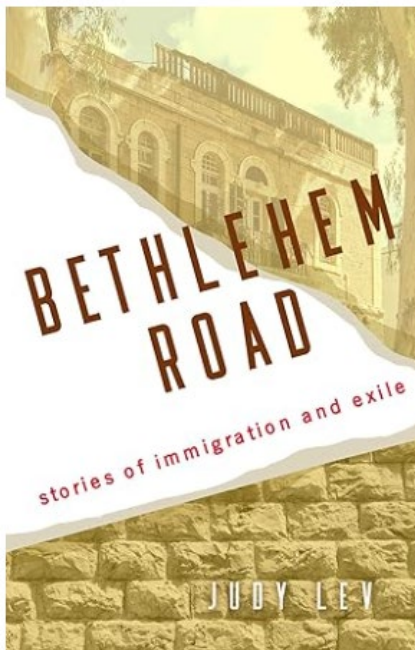
For readers of *I'm Glad My Mom Died* by Jennette McCurdy and *The Glass Castle* by Jeanette Walls, a candid and heart-wrenching memoir about child abuse, family secrets, and the healing that begins once the truth is revealed and the past is confronted.

Andrea is four and a half the first time her father, David, gives her a bath. Although she is young, she knows there is something strange about the way he is touching her. When her mother, Marlene, walks in to check on them, she howls and crumples to the floor—and when she opens her eyes, she is blind. Marlene's hysterical blindness lasts for weeks, but her willful blindness lasts decades. The abuse continues, and Andrea spends a childhood living with a secret she can't tell and a shame she is too afraid to name.

Despite it, she survives. She builds a life and tells herself she is fine. But at age thirty-three, an unwanted grope on a New York City subway triggers her past. Suddenly unable to remember how to forget, Andrea is forced to confront her past—and finally begin to heal.

This brave debut offers honest insight into a survivor's journey. Readers will feel Andrea's pain, her fear, and her shame—yet they will also feel her hope. And like Andrea, they will come to understand an important truth: though healing is complicated, it is possible to find joy and even grace in the wake of the most profound betrayals.

About the author: Andrea Leeb has an MFA from Bennington Writing Seminars. Her work has been published in numerous journals including Litro Magazine, the Potomac Review, and HerStry. She has worked as an attorney and a registered nurse. Andrea lives in Venice Beach, California with her husband, Paul.



Bethlehem Road
Stories of Immigration and Exile
Judy Lev

Selling Points:

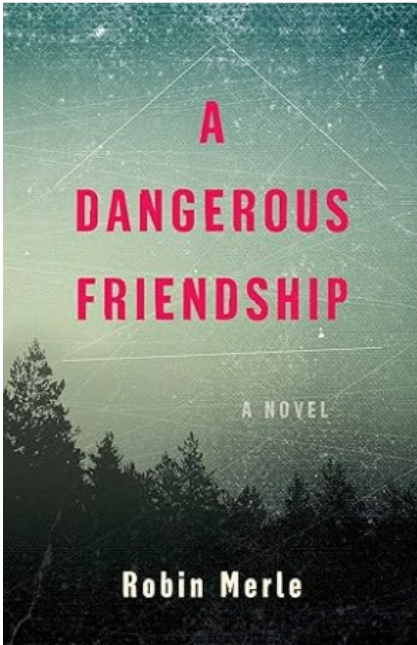
- “. Judy Lev’s *Bethlehem Road* is a chorus of wonders.”—Rachel Kadish, author of *The Weight of Ink*
- “These remarkable stories, breathtakingly generous and beautifully written, will absolutely break your heart.”—Eileen Pollack, author of *A Perfect Life*
- “If you want to know what it’s like in (late-twentieth-century) Israel . . . in the soul, this is a book you should read.”—Max Apple, author of *The Jews of Home Depot and Other Stories*

For fans of André Aciman, Omer Friedlander, and Ayelet Tsabari, these twelve stories convey the power, magic, and pain of place—one iconic street in Jerusalem where immigrants young and old struggle to find themselves between the years 1967 and 1999.

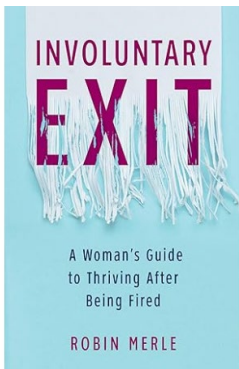
Leaving one country for another, even if it is an immigrant’s choice, is never easy. The stories in this collection—often emotional, sometimes funny—examine this truth as they render the experiences of twelve characters, most of whom immigrate to Jerusalem in the three decades following the 1967 Six-Day War. All of them come to create new lives in an old homeland. Some succeed, but for most the present and past collide, confounding and challenging attempts to create stability—like the Dutch Holocaust survivor struggling with her love of a Nazi, or the young American Reform Jew craving an observant Orthodox lifestyle.

Each of the characters in these layered stories, from the pregnant Canadian woman who imagines giving birth to a savior to the American chiropractor who takes his kids to watch the Passover slaughter of a lamb, comes to find that after the initial excitement of falling in love with a new country, difficulties emerge. Being an immigrant is a perpetual mode; you are always aware of loss and difference. In addition to this shared experience, iconic Bethlehem Road, with its ethnic mosaic and vibrant urban setting, is the great connecting thread in these tales—giving readers a chance to peek beyond its stone fences and glimpse the people who live there.

About the author: Judy Lev, originally from Cleveland, Ohio, lives and writes in Haifa, Israel. Her essays, stories and poetry have appeared in leading American literary journals and Jewish magazines since 1967. For twenty years she wrote a personal essay column for The Jerusalem Post. She taught creative writing in Israel for thirty years and continues to mentor emerging writers Immigration and Exile.



Also by Robin Merle



A Dangerous Friendship

A Novel

Robin Merle

Selling Points:

- **Thrill-seeking, reckless adventure.**
- **Toxic friendship, dangerous secrets.**
- **NYC power, sex, betrayal.**
- **Fast-paced, sharp dialogue.**
- **Survival, self-discovery, escape.**

With dark humor, this women's fiction is about obsessive friendship, secrets, and a life-changing summer in the wild 1980s of New York City.

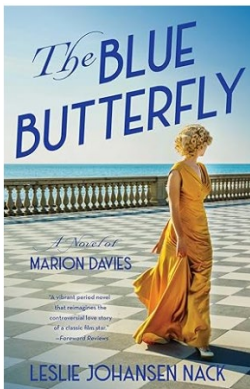
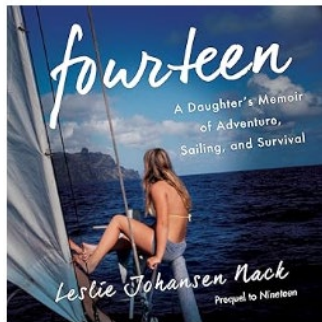
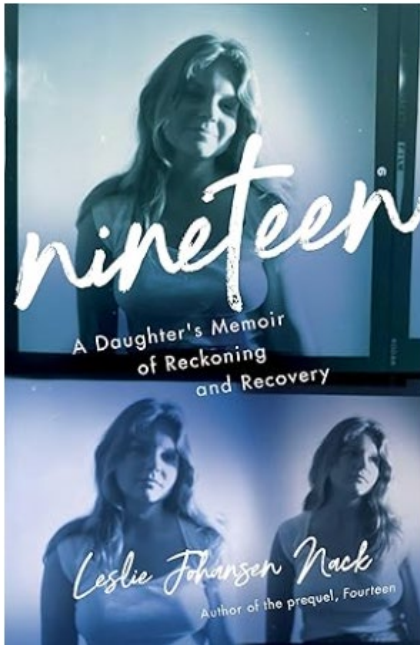
In 1980s New York City, aspiring writers Tina and Spike bond in a complex, all-consuming friendship that will change their lives forever.

Desperate to redefine herself after a failed marriage, twenty-nine-year-old Tina embarks on a thrill-seeking journey to feel alive again. When she meets thirty-five-year-old Spike, a beautiful, seductive, seemingly invulnerable woman, she becomes enthralled by the older woman's stories of NYC power brokers, sex, wealthy men, and her past. Tina latches on to Spike as someone who can save her from mediocrity and show her how to be the kind of woman who can have power over men—both in romance and in life.

Tina and Spike rent a cabin together for the summer in the remote backwoods, seeking adventure and a life of writing. They embark on a wild, manic, and darkly humorous journey filled with dive bars, drugs, men, and all-night dancing. As they become increasingly psychologically entangled, Tina realizes how dangerous Spike is and must act to save herself.

Filled with New York wit and fast-paced dialogue, this is a story of loss, betrayal, survival, and blurring the line between attraction and peril.

About the author: **Robin Merle** is the author of *Involuntary*. She has published short fiction in *The Chouteau Review*, *South Carolina Review*, *Kalliope*, and *Real Fiction*. She holds a master's degree from The Johns Hopkins Writing Seminars. A longtime New Yorker, Robin now lives in Scarborough, Maine with her family.



Nineteen

A Daughter's Memoir of Reckoning and Recovery

Leslie Johnson Nack

Selling Points:

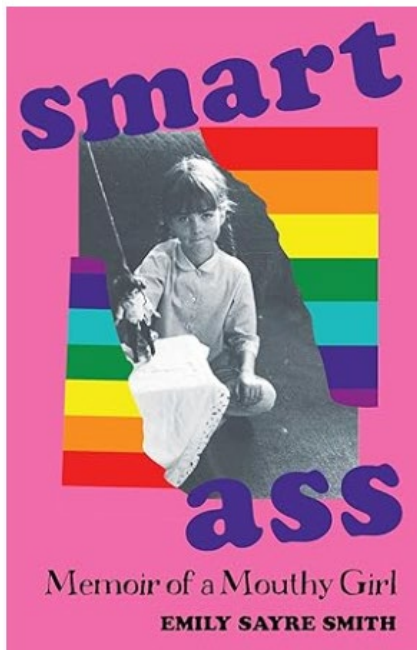
- "... is immersive and riveting, gripping, and emotional... a story of resilience, strength, and a raw and unflinching exploration of survival and self-discovery...a must-read memoir for anyone seeking to confront their past..."—Stephanie Thornton Plymale, author of *American Daughter*
- "As always, Nack's writing is fearless and viscerally entertaining. Written with unsparing honesty and impressive resilience..."—Laura Cathcart Robbins, author of *Stash: My Life in Hiding* and host of *The Only One in the Room* podcast.
- "Absolutely fabulous. Riveting. Horrifying. Courageous. Inspiring. A must-read."—Judy Foreman, author of *Let the More Loving One be Me*

For fans of Suzanne Heywood's *Wavewalker* and Cea Sunrise Person's *North of Normal* comes Leslie Johansen Nack's emotional follow-up memoir about her battle with addiction following a traumatic childhood—and her inspiring journey toward healing and happiness.

In the mid-1970s, Leslie Nack's family returned from sailing to French Polynesia and began the integration process into American life again, which included being tossed back and forth between an alcoholic, mentally ill mother and an abusive, overbearing father.

To find love and acceptance, Leslie chases a myth that throws her into the path of nefarious older men, where she eventually falls into drug and alcohol addiction. Her father dies in his plane in the jungles of Mexico when Leslie is nineteen, but his abuse lingers in her psyche. She spirals, her only solace her next fix—until, somehow, she finds the grace, despite her abjectly dysfunctional family background, to believe in her worth. This newfound self-love changes everything for her, and finally she is able to find her way to sobriety and recovery.

About the author: Leslie Johansen Nack is the author of two award-winning books: her debut memoir, *Fourteen*, and her historical novel, *The Blue Butterfly*. Nack graduated from UCLA. She lives outside Seattle with her husband. Visit her at www.lesliejohansennack.com.



Smart Ass
Memoir of a Mouthy Girl
Emily Sayre Smith

Selling Points:

- **Family chaos fuels fierce independence.**
- **Queer discovery, radical self-love.**
- **Sharp wit, unfiltered honesty.**
- **Mouthy, messy, unforgettable.**

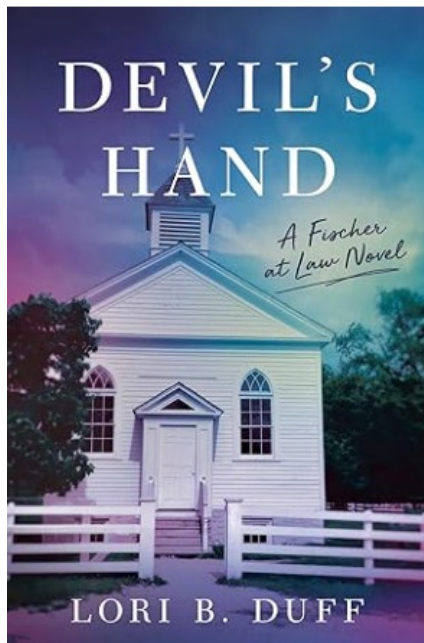
Perfect for anyone interested in the behind-the-scenes of the ballet world, a rousing memoir of a brash young ballerina from a dysfunctional family who achieves her greatest dream only to realize—as she begins to find success—that she’s gay.

With a priest for a father and a magician for a mother, Emily Sayre Smith was always going to have an interesting life—for better and for worse. Here, she recounts what it was like coming of age in Texas and Arizona in the '50s, '60s, and '70s in a decidedly dysfunctional family.

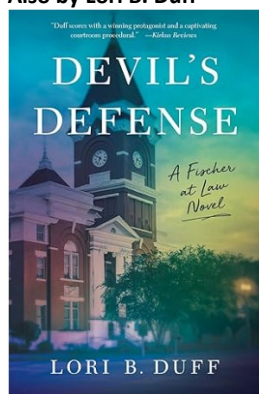
To escape her turbulent family life, Emily throws herself into her ballet classes, where she can dance out the anxiety in her body and take refuge in fantasy worlds. Driven by the dream of being a ballerina, she earns scholarships and lead roles, studies in London for two years, and eventually lands back in Tucson, where she joins a fledgling ballet company and falls in love—with a woman and with marijuana.

Join Emily as she survives her troubled family, hangs out with dance royalty, saves Martha Graham, meets the Queen of England, slings hash in a diner, discovers her sexuality, and tries to figure out how it’s all going fit together in her ballerina world in this story of a brave and sometimes bumbling girl charging her way through life.

About the author: **Emily Sayre Smith** grew up in Texas and Arizona. She later spent two years in London and twenty years in NYC and LA. Initially, she was a classically trained ballet dancer but had to leave that world due to drug addiction. She then owned a gym for fifteen years. After getting sober, she worked in high-end commercial tenant improvement construction for another twenty years before deciding to start writing again. Smartass is her first book. Emily currently resides in Palm Springs, CA.



Also by Lori B. Duff



Devil's Hand
A Fischer at Law Novel
Lori B. Duff

Selling Points:

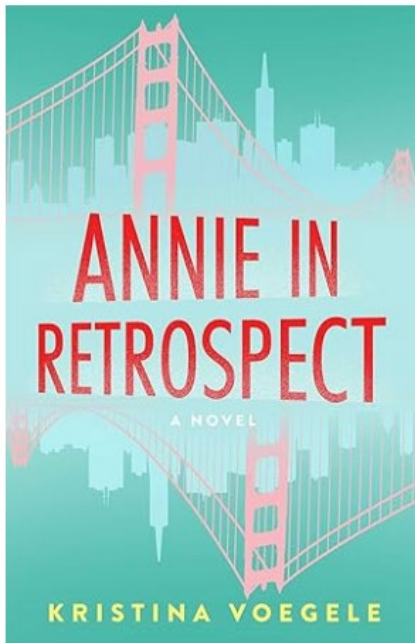
- "... Duff captures the tense, high-pressure world of legal battles with an authenticity that reflects her own background in law."—*Readers' Favorite*
- "... an intriguing story filled with important and difficult topics handled with empathy, grace, and a smart sense of humor."—Lisa Roe, author of *Welcome to the Neighborhood*
- "... Fast-paced and packed with unforgettable characters, this gripping legal thriller will keep you hooked until its unexpected ending."—Zelly Ruskin, author of *Not Yours to Keep*.
- "Building on its prequel, this an intelligent read is both fun and socially relevant."—Jude Berman, author of *The Vow*, named a 2024 *Kirkus Reviews* "Best Indie Book of the Year"

For fans of the new *Matlock* reboot, a legal thriller featuring an idealistic young lawyer who believes her bruised and abused client . . . even after discovering that client is keeping secrets that are beyond belief.

Attorney Jessica Fischer is back, and this time she feels good about helping her client. Susan Wolan is the wife of a county commissioner and the victim of domestic violence. Jessica knows the abuse happened—she's seen the handprints on Susan's body. But she also suspects her client is holding something back from her. What is it—and can she help save Susan from her powerful and connected abuser without damaging her own career?

As if all this weren't enough, Jessica is simultaneously forced to deal with her estranged father, who has just come back into her life with secrets of his own. After a fall lands him in the emergency room, Jessica realizes that he and her paralegal, Diane—a person she depends on to keep her sane—might be falling for each other. She wonders if she'll be able to stop herself from falling . . . apart.

About the author: **Lori B. Duff** is the award-winning author of the Fischer at Law series. An attorney since 1994, she writes legal fiction with the voice of experience. She's married, has two overachieving children who have fled the nest, and spends her free time spoiling her rescue dog in Loganville, GA.



Annie in Retrospect
A Novel
Kristina Voegelé

Selling Points:

- “It’s a story that walks the balance between whimsical and wise with effortless prose, delivering amusingly warm narration . . . a highly recommended read that offers a rare, compassionate look at how we evolve through love, mistakes, and second chances.”—*Readers’ Favorite*, 5-star review
- “An emotionally rich, time-twisting page-turner infused with wit and longing. The kind of story that sticks with you, long after you’ve raced to the end.”—Megan Walrod, author of *It’s Always Been Me*

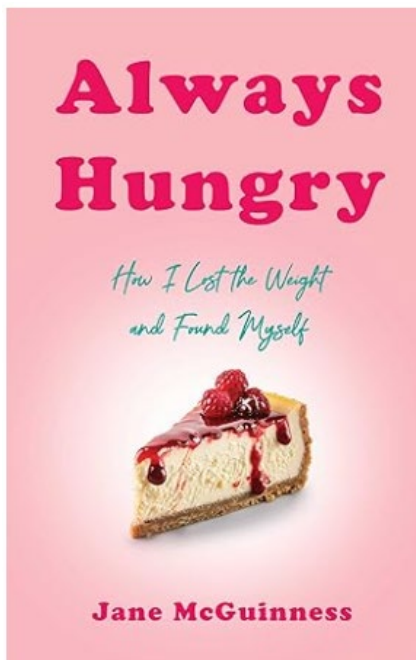
13 *Going on 30* meets *Younger* in this irresistible, time-bending novel about a 40-year-old woman who swaps places with her 25-year-old self in 2008 San Francisco and discovers that the future—and the past—aren’t quite what she’d imagined.

It’s 2008, and Annie Young is a hot mess. Navigating a quarter-life crisis while living it up in San Francisco, she’s juggling unemployment, heartbreak, and changing friendships, all while dreaming of a perfect “married with kids” future that now feels farther away than ever.

But Annie’s life takes a wild turn when, with the help of her grandmother and a magical prayer, she wakes up in 2023 in the body of her older self. She is now Annie Hartman, a forty-year-old wife and stay-at-home mother. This is what she wanted—right?

Meanwhile, forty-year-old Annie, who’s disenchanted with the realities of mid-life, gets the second chance she’s been wishing for when she wakes up in her twenty-five-year-old life and body in 2008. But can she truly embrace the fun of being young again once she’s face to face with the first love who broke her heart and the best friend she knows she’ll lose? Forced to confront her regrets and relive her twenties, knowing what she knows now, will she choose a different path?

About the Kristina Voegelé is a voice for women ready to stop people-pleasing and start prioritizing their own dreams. After earning her MFA from Mills College, she spent a decade writing for brands, putting her dream of writing books on the shelf. Her writing speaks to women ready to reconnect with the parts of themselves they’ve lost. Her work has appeared on Lifehack.org and Thrive Global. She lives in the SF Bay Area with her family.



Always Hungry
How I lost the Weight and Found Myself
Jane McGuinness

Selling Points:

- “Heartbreaking, fascinating, healing and hilarious. Brilliant for anyone who has ever obsessed about food or struggled when looking in the mirror. Reading this book helped me learn to like myself a little bit more. A must read.”—Lyndi Cohen, author of *Your Weight Is Not the Problem* and *The Nude Nutritionist*
- “An empowering story of self-discovery that every woman can relate to. Highly recommended.”—Marina DelVecchio, author of *The Virgin Chronicles* and *Unsexed*

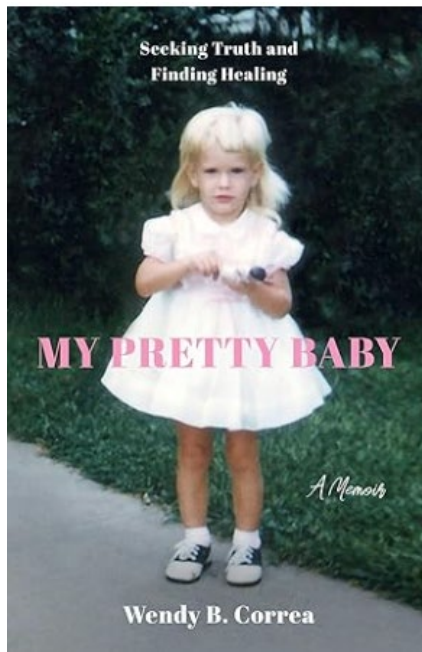
Raw and wickedly funny, this debut memoir details one woman’s recovery from her emotional eating disorder, while navigating divorce, discrimination, motherhood, and the madness that is Tinder dating.

A riot of dark humor beginning with her dysfunctional childhood in outback Australia, Jane McGuinness details her recovery from an emotional eating disorder with dry wit, discovering that hers is something of a curious social experiment.

Exploring themes of patriarchy and discrimination against the overweight, Jane walks away from her long-term marriage, returns to grad school while raising her three children in a foreign country, and transforms her health. Hiking the Camino de Santiago through Spain and adventures in Greece are regaled with self-deprecating fervor, while horrifying post-divorce Tinder dating will leave the reader amused and aghast in equal measure.

This debut memoir is truly a transformative journey in every sense, as Jane discovered that it was never food that she hungered for after all.

About the author: Jane McGuinness is a Registered Clinical Counsellor and mother of three. A recovering emotional eater, her own therapy consists of escaping to the mountains whenever possible to hike or bike with her trademark enthusiasm for life. She lives in North Vancouver, B.C.



My Pretty Baby
A Memoir
Wendy B. Correa

Selling Points:

- "...candid storytelling and emotional honesty make this memoir both heart-wrenching and profoundly hopeful."—*Readers' Favorite*, 5-stars
- Correa is an engaging wordsmith and fills her stories with detailed descriptions . . ."—*Kirkus Reviews*
- "...a journey no just through one woman's choices, but the music, mindfulness, and meanings that result in a better, more peaceful life..."—*Midwest Book Review*.
- "Wendy never gives up her quest for safety and purpose. Finally, she finds her own winding path to teachers, spiritual practices, love and healing."—Priscilla Warner, New York Times best-selling author of *Learning to Breathe*.

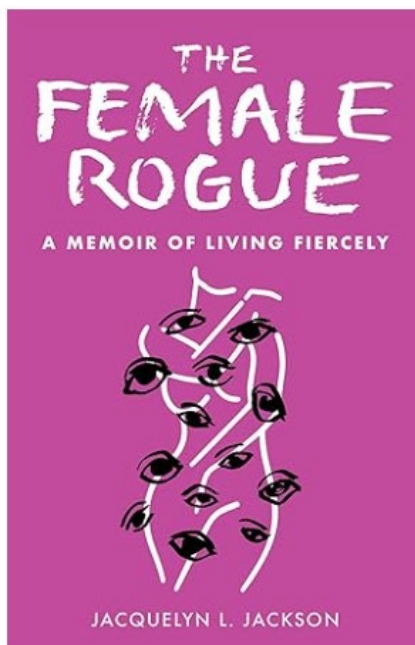
For fans of *Educated* and *The Glass Castle*, a former music industry insider's journey of healing—from childhood trauma through spiritual practices and self-discovery to a place of peace—with some incredible celebrity encounters along the way.

A transformative memoir chronicling Wendy Correa's journey to heal from childhood traumas, including the death of her father, emotionally distant siblings, and a violent, alcoholic stepfather, *My Pretty Baby* is a story of not belonging and, ultimately, of the healing that comes from building a chosen family.

After escaping her turbulent home life, Wendy's path of self-discovery takes her through Buddhism, meditation, plant medicine, yoga, Native American spirituality, 12-Step programs, and psychotherapy. Along the way, she has extraordinary experiences: singing "Give Peace a Chance" on the Rose Bowl stage with rock 'n' roll royalty, attending AA meetings with legendary musicians while working at A&M and Geffen Records, and meeting her musical hero, Joni Mitchell. Native American sweat lodge and vision quest ceremonies further strengthen her sobriety and mental well-being.

Her life takes a new turn when she moves to Aspen and becomes a radio DJ and assistant to gonzo writer Hunter S. Thompson. There, she meets her future husband and begins to build the family she always longed for—but despite her newfound peace, she is repeatedly drawn back into her family's dysfunction. It's only after her mother's death that Wendy uncovers a painful family secret that finally answers her lifelong question: *What really happened to my family?*

About the author: Wendy B. Correa is a writer, hiker, yogi, and licensed massage therapist. She has worked in the film, television, multimedia, and music industries in Los Angeles and later as a radio DJ in Aspen, Colorado. Visit her at www.wendybcorrea.com.



The Female Rogue

A Memoir of Living Fiercely

Jacquelyn L. Jackson

Advance Praise for *The Female Rogue*

- “Jacquelyn’s quest to claim the truth of her own body, while also digging into truths of female history too long buried, inspires all of us to go rogue. Fiercely and now.”—Laura Munson, *New York Times* and *USA Today* best-selling author and founder of the acclaimed Haven Writing Retreats
- “This beautifully written memoir reminds us that the stress and grief we carry is handed down through generations...urges us to reject this collective trauma by claiming our inner rogue.”—Ellen McDonnell, retired executive director of NPR news programming
- “A beautiful writer, a shaper of words and dreams. The whimsy and logic and history, both personal and book learned, take my breath away. You have a winner here.”—Susan Fifer Canby, Vice President Emeritus, National Geographic Society

Female body hatred and fear have been reinforced by religion and culture for centuries but can be transformed with female agency driven by unearthing and living healthy narratives of female strength and sacredness that will change laws and lives.

Hundreds of female eyes, locked in oil and clay, latch onto Jacquelyn’s body as she wanders the Uffizi Gallery in Florence, Italy. Female images frozen in frames and on pedestals as virgins and victims adrift in a sea of male kings and conquerors. The fierce female gaze ignites a panic attack, and she swears she can hear their plea: Set us free.

Two months later, a dream as insistent as the female eyes shakes her awake with a question: Where is my rogue? She searches New York sidewalks and Montana meadows. When she awakens, she knows her rogue is not outside but in.

Jacquelyn knew rogue energy as a child but puberty stole her away. The eyes insist she get the energy back. How? By acknowledging her innate female agency, and replacing obsessions over external appearance with trust for her body, instincts, intuition and dream wisdom. Search, the eyes urge, for female rogue-models through time, and scour history for lies and blank spaces. Reject the biggest lie of all: sin wallpapers female bodies.

Rogue is her passion and soul. “Be fierce,” rogue commands. “I am your body, soul, intellect and self.” Jacquelyn says yes. The eyes have it.

About the author: Jacquelyn L. Jackson is a writer whose career has focused on female body issues. Her essays have been aired on NPR and she has published articles and op eds in the *Los Angeles Times*, *Boston*.



From Sexless Marriage to Sex Goddess: A Memoir

Alisa Kriegel, PhD

Selling points:

- ***Sex and the City*** for grown-ups.
- Midlife & sexual awakening with honesty and humor.
- A therapist rediscovers desire and self-pleasure.
- Breaking shame barriers to embrace pleasure at any age.
- A smart take on women's sexuality and relationships dynamics.
- Appeals to fans of *Woman on Top* by Gillian Anderson

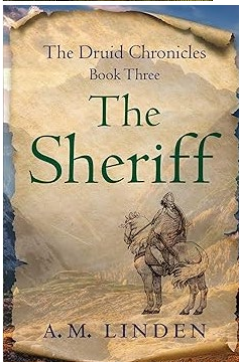
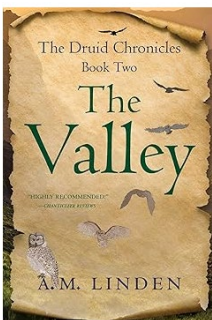
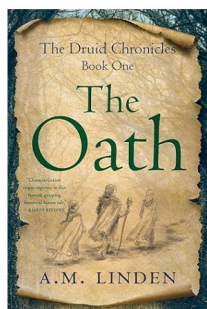
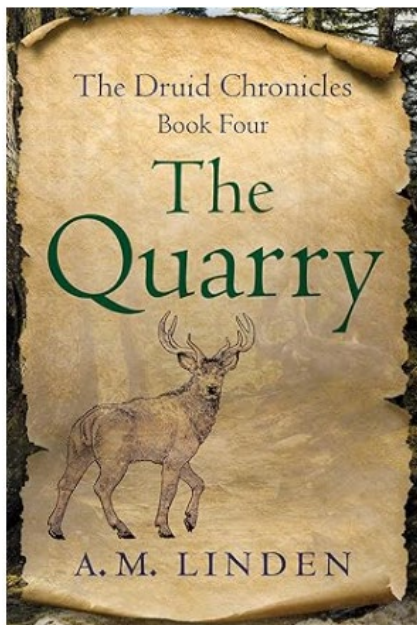
About the Book:

For fans of *Eat Pray Love* and *Maybe You Should Talk to Someone*, a therapist's tale of mid-life sexual awakening as she bravely explores relationships, sex, and pleasure—and learns that it's never too late to desire and be desired.

Is it ever too late to connect to the sexual part of yourself? At forty-eight years old, after her husband announced he had fallen in love with a man, Alisa Kriegel was determined to finally figure out this essential part of herself. As a psychologist, she had the tools to help others; now, it was time to help herself.

Alisa's bold and vulnerable story told with honesty and humor, shows us that it's possible to have a sexual awakening—and to experience the thrill of feeling desired—at any age. Letting go of decades of shame and giving herself permission for pleasure was just the beginning of jumping into a series of adventures in online dating, sex, and romance. From sex clubs in New York City to a canoe trip in the Canadian wilderness, this memoir offers readers an insight-filled journey into one woman's mid-life discoveries about sex, love, and relationships—and a behind-the-scenes, in-depth analysis of women's sexuality.

About the author: Alisa Kriegel is a psychologist with a thriving private practice in Manhattan working with adults and couples. She is on a mission to help people give themselves permission to seek pleasure and believes everyone deserves to experience incredible, mind-blowing sex. This is her first memoir. Her podcast, *Let's Talk About Sex, Really*, is on all platforms. She lives in New York, NY.



The Quarry

The Druid Chronicles, Book Four

A.M. Linden

Praise for *The Druid Chronicles*

- “Linden’s well-researched tale eloquently brings to life a lesser-known period of transition in Britain. . . . The author has created a strong foundation for her series with well-developed characters whom readers can embrace. . . . [a] layered, gripping historical fiction . . .”
—*Kirkus Reviews*
- “Linden uses a fairy tale-like style almost as though this story has been passed down orally over the centuries. Though the kingdoms are fictional, Linden’s tale draws on meticulous historical research, especially in her dramatization of the Christian persecution of the druids.”
—*Booklist*

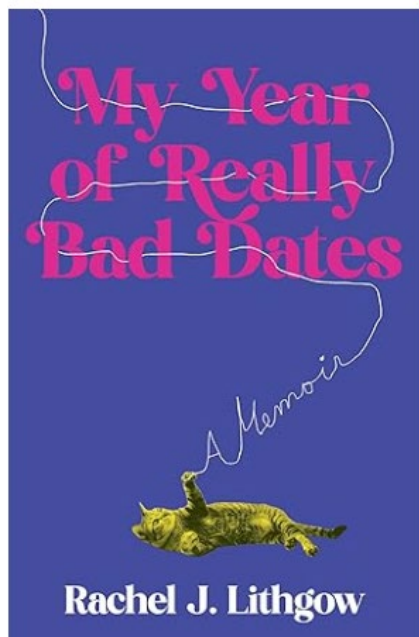
Set in early medieval Britain and perfect for Lord of the Rings fans, this fourth installment of *The Druid Chronicles* tells the story of a Saxon sheriff who’s on the hunt for fugitive Druids—unaware that he is being pursued as well.

Forced to flee their previous sanctuary, a small band of goddess-worshipping Britons reach a high mountain valley, believed to be the site of their cult’s ancestral home, to find its stone towers reduced to rubble. With only a matter of months before winter sets in, they face the all but impossible task of making habitable dwellings and gathering enough food stores to survive the coming storms.

Time is equally pressing for a pair of Christian Saxon lovers who have traveled from the capital city of Atheldom to the remote shire of Codswallow to kill the woman’s husband before he finds out that she is pregnant.

Meanwhile, fresh from tracking down a runaway princess, Stefan, the sheriff of Codswallow, sets out on a new mission—to capture a band of pagans rumored to be witches and sorcerers—unaware that he is being hunted by deadly enemies of his own.

About the author A.M. Linden, born in Seattle, studied anthropology and nursing before becoming a nurse practitioner. She later pursued writing, researching early British history and traveling to England, Scotland, and Wales.



My Year of Really Bad Dates

A Memoir

Rachel J. Lithgow

Praise for *My Year of Really Bad Dates*

"From the opening sentence, I knew Rachel Lithgow is a hilarious new voice in women's fiction. This book is part memoir, part life lessons, and part How-NOT-To instruction manual on love & dating. The stories of sex, heartache, love, betrayal, and ultimately hope will keep you laughing and crying, then laughing again. This is a MUST read!" —Randi Mayem Singer, screenwriter of *Mrs. Doubtfire*

For anyone who's ever gone on terrible date, a vulnerable memoir that explores dating in midlife after divorce, with bad dates—from terrible one-night stands to promising matches who ultimately disappoint—anchoring the theme of every chapter.

After two life-shaking events—losing her father and divorcing the man she's spent half her life with, who happens to be an actor from a famous family—Rachel Lithgow leaves a thirty-year career to write full time and pursue a relationship with a calming, delightful man she recently met online. She thinks she has it all figured out . . . until he announces he's joining a cult and moving to Phoenix with a blonde real estate agent.

Through a year of terrible dates, peppered with a few great experiences and a lot of pinot noir, the author learns that patterns can be changed, that asking for help is sometimes necessary, and that there's only one way to repair her brokenness: by facing her trauma and demons head-on.

About the author: Rachel J. Lithgow is a historian and museum professional with thirty years of experience running large cultural institutions. Her work and writing have appeared in dozens of publications around the world, including *The New York Times*, *The Daily News*, *Time*, *The Advocate*, *The Jerusalem Post*, *The Huffington Post*, the *Los Angeles Times*, *The Times of Israel*, *eJP*, *The New York Observer*, and the *Buffalo News*. Rachel has two children and splits her time between Long Beach, Long Island, and Hell's Kitchen in New York City.



No Longer That Girl
Retracing the Scars of the Past and Present
Stephanie L. Maley

Selling Points:

- "... takes hard topics and turns them into palpable illumination... Not everyone has the courage to be so self-honest, but Steph delivers her truth with hope to live by." —Laura Munson, *New York Times*
- "...shows a young girl's fight to find her voice amid moral confusion and serial betrayals by men in positions of power...the author finds healing by courageously facing her past." —Liz Kinchen, MA, Certified Mindfulness Teacher, author of *Light in Bandaged Places*
- "A raw and unfailingly honest account of a survivor's long journey home to herself. Maley has written her broken heart whole in these pages and, with powerful authenticity, invites readers to find healing in telling their own truth."—Malia Bowers, PhD, Professional Lecturer, Department of Political Science, DePaul University

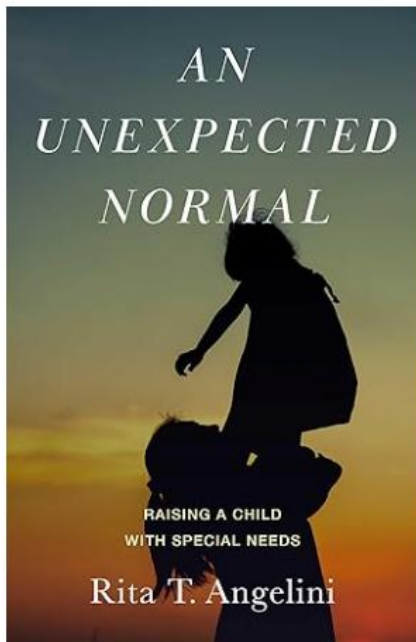
For fans of *No Matter Our Wreckage*, this memoir explores the emotional impact of sexual abuse and how this debut author not only faces it but recovers from the trauma.

Stephanie Maley's life is beautiful. She has her husband of thirty years and two sons—all healthy and making their way in the world. Other than the unwelcome memories of the past that flash in her mind like blinding television ads, things couldn't get much better. But when COVID-19 comes to the United States in 2020, Stephanie is seized by a deep panic, certain that she is going to die.

Suddenly, her newfound fear of death triggers memories of the past she's fought so long to repress: she was molested at a young age, groomed by two different men, and still feels the void left by her birth father and stepfather's absence. In the face of a chaotic world wrought with both physical and mental illness, Stephanie must embark on a journey of healing.

With the help of her therapist, her husband, and the solace she finds in writing, Stephanie discovers that she doesn't have to be defined by the pain and abuse she's suffered. *No Longer That Girl* is a touching memoir about a woman who bravely faces health issues, betrayal, and abandonment—and proves that no matter the obstacle, we too can overcome our trials and become more resilient souls.

About the author: Wendy B. Correa Stephanie L. Maley, a native of Chattanooga, Tennessee, dreamed of writing a book since she was a young woman. Thirty years later, that dream found its way to a reality. Before becoming an author, Stephanie worked as a pediatric nurse after getting her BSN, home-educated her two sons, and became a professional photographer after obtaining an associate's degree in photography at forty-eight years old (www.lov2shoot.com). She and her husband, Mike, live in their dream home on Lake Hartwell Georgia.



An Unexpected Normal

Raising a Child with Special Needs

Rita T. Angelini

Selling points:

- **Discover resilience through a family's journey of love.**
- **Find hope in life's unexpected challenges and triumphs.**
- **Experience the power of unconditional acceptance and joy.**
- **Gain insight into navigating disability with strength.**

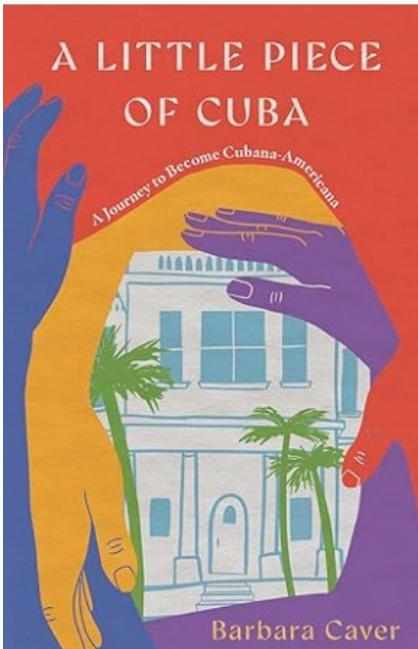
A beacon of hope for parents of children with disabilities, Angelini tells the story of a Chicago couple that learns unconditional love, complete acceptance, true compassion, and a new definition of normal after their baby is diagnosed with cerebral palsy.

Faced with the possibility of losing their three-day-old second child when she contracts meningitis, Norman and Rita Angelini experience all five stages of grief. Terrified for their daughter, they bargain, plead, and beg for a miracle—and they get one, but it isn't what they expected: though KiKi survives, her illness results in severe brain damage, and she is ultimately diagnosed with cerebral palsy.

In the aftermath of this diagnosis, denial and anger take over. Rita fights to keep her vision of who she thinks KiKi could be, and she channels her energy into searching for a procedure—some therapy—that would change KiKi's outcome. In pursuit of a cure, the Angelini family treks across the United States and abroad—but somewhere along the way, acceptance of and joy in who KiKi is prevails over the idea of “fixing” her.

A memoir of unending hope, faith lost and rediscovered, and unconditional love, *An Unexpected Normal* offers other parents of children born with a disability hope that joy is always within reach—even in the most challenging of circumstances.

About the author: Rita Angelini is a retired Certified Public Accountant who now pursues her passion for writing full time. *An Unexpected Normal* won Silver for “Unpublished Memoir” in the 2022 Royal Palm Literary Competition. She is also a member of multiple writers' associations. When not writing, she enjoys volunteering with the disabled, boating on the Gulf, and traveling the country in her RV. Rita lives in Fort Myers, Florida.



A Little Piece of Cuba

A Journey to Become Cubana-Americana

Barbara Caver

Selling points

- **Discovering roots, identity, and belonging in vibrant Cuba,**
- **As heartfelt journey through culture, history, and family.**
- **Lost heritage reclaimed in a life-changing adventure**
- **Cuba's spirit awakens memories, connections, and truths.**
- **A vivid memoir of self-discovery and resilience.**

For fans of Chanel Cleeton's *Next Year in Havana*, a real-life story of how a young woman's five-day trip to Cuba, her mother's birthplace, completely changed her view of herself as a second-generation American.

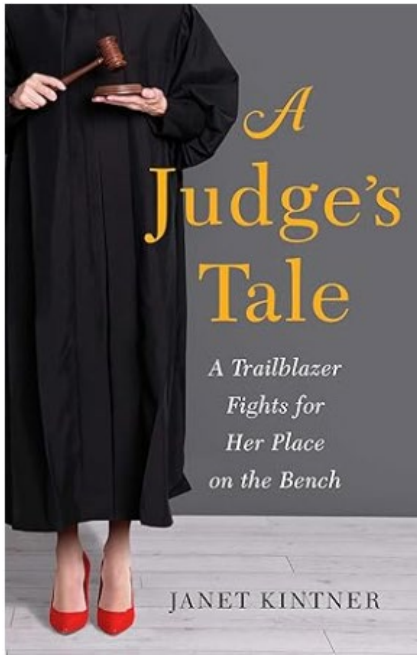
When Barbara Caver was growing up in South Carolina, her Cuban roots were as mysterious as the embargoed island her mother had been born on but left in 1959. For Barbara, Cuba represented a heritage that she'd never understood and couldn't fully embrace. When she moved from South Carolina to New York, the vibrant diversity of the city and new friendships with other Cuban Americans made her curious about her mother's home country. Finally, in 2017, she traveled to Cuba. Immediately upon arriving in Havana, Barbara was struck by a sense of the familiar: tiles on a backsplash looked like tiles in her grandparents' home, the airport smelled like a childhood memory, local dishes tasted like her grandmother's cooking, and a morning stroll through Vedado delivered her to the front gate of her great-grandmother's home—despite the fact that she didn't have the address. She wasn't just visiting a foreign country; she was being welcomed home.

Part travel adventure, part ghost story, and part memoir, *this* is an imaginative and humorous personal journey through Barbara's memories and experiences as she discovers that she is and has always been more Cuban than she thought.

"A memoir rich with cultural and political narratives and threaded with an intense yearning to belong."—Madhushree Ghosh, author of *Khabaar: An Immigrant Journey of Food, Memory and Family*

"The perfect read for anyone who loves rich origin stories, Cuban history, and the warm glow of hearing it all over cafe con leche and maduros at abuelita's kitchen table."—Brooke Siem, author of *May Cause Side Effects*

About the author: Barbara Caver is an accomplished film and television production executive.. *A Little Piece of Cuba* is her first full-length memoir. Raised in South Carolina, Barbara currently resides in Jackson Heights, New York City. Visit her at: <https://barbaracaverauthor.com/>



A Judge's Tale

A Trailblazer Fight for Her Place on the Bench
Janet Kintner

Selling points:

- Trailblazing judge defies the odds.
- Glass ceiling, fierce determination, victory.
- Power, politics, justice, motherhood collide.
- Scandal, ambition, courtroom battles unfold.
- Historic fight, fearless female leadership.

For fans of *The Good Wife* and *Suits*, the true story of a passionately principled young female judge in the man's world of the '60s and '70s who is forced to defend her judgeship against two male challengers in a grueling election—while pregnant with her second child.

Janet Kintner could have ended up just another victim of the system. Abused as a child, sexually assaulted as a young woman, the odds were not in her favor—but instead of letting these experiences destroy her, she used them as fuel in pursuit of her dreams. By twenty-four, she was a newly minted lawyer determined to secure justice for everyone, regardless of their gender, race, religion, or income.

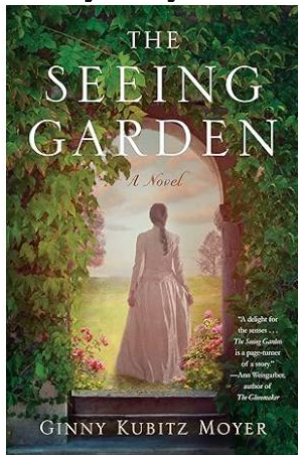
In 1968, the District Attorney's office refused to hire Kintner because she was a woman. Undeterred, she became a lawyer for low-income clients and later a prosecutor specializing in consumer fraud. She was elected to the County Bar Association Board of Directors, the third woman to do so. In private practice, she often worked pro bono.

In 1976, at thirty-one and pregnant, Governor Jerry Brown appointed her as the third female judge in San Diego. This decision was met with resistance from some men. Two years later, while pregnant with her second child, she faced a contentious judicial election against two male challengers. Balancing her children, job, and campaign, she aimed to inspire other women. But was San Diego ready for a female judge?

About the author: Janet I. Kintner is a retired judge who served on the San Diego County Superior Court. Appointed in 1976 by Governor Jerry Brown, she was the third woman in San Diego history to become a judge. She retired in 2007 after 31 years on the bench.



Also by Ginny Kubitz Moyer



The World at Home

A Novel

Ginny Kubitz Moyer

Selling points:

- For fans of Christina Baker Kline and Fiona Davis.
- Wartime San Francisco secrets
- Rescue, Redemption & Rebellion - Betsy's devotion to saving animals wasn't
- just kindness-it was defiance.
- History's pulse in every stitch

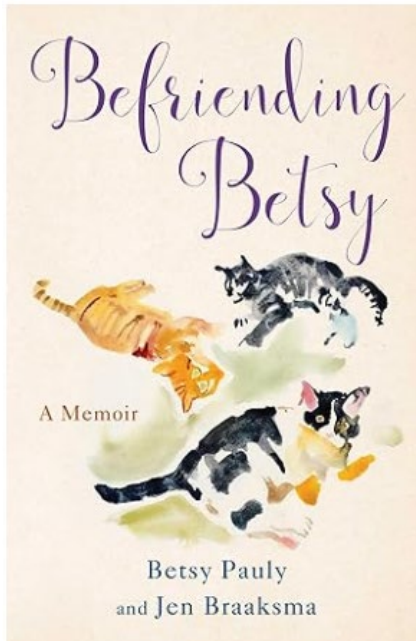
For fans of Christina Baker Kline and Fiona Davis, a coming-of-age story about a young woman discovering love, loss, and the power of her own creativity in World War II San Francisco.

San Francisco in 1944 is a bustling place, a revolving door of soldiers and sailors passing through on their way to the war in the Pacific. Twenty-year-old Irene Cleary, however, is not going anywhere. Although she'd love to travel, the seamstress shop she inherited from her mentor keeps her firmly rooted in the only city she's ever known. She pours her energy into dressmaking and volunteers for the war effort by dancing with servicemen at the USO.

But Irene's life is transformed when she designs a gown for Cynthia Burke, the socialite whose new marriage to Max, a handsome Chicago businessman, is the talk of the Nob Hill elite. As Irene is drawn into the Burkes' glamorous, troubled orbit, and as she becomes absorbed in making costumes for the first American performance of a ballet called *The Nutcracker*, she finds herself on the threshold of exhilarating, perilous new worlds . . . and the most surprising discoveries of all will be the ones about herself.

Set in a vibrant city during a turbulent time, *The World at Home* is a coming-of-age story about creativity, loss, and the many lessons we learn from love.

About the author: Ginny Kubitz Moyer is a California native with a love of local history. She is the author of the novel *The Seeing Garden* (She Writes Press, 2023) as well as several works of spiritual nonfiction. A graduate of Pomona College and Stanford University, she lives in the San Francisco Bay Area with her husband, two sons, and one rescue dog.



Befriending Betsy

A Memoir

Betsy Pauly and Jen Braaksma

Selling points:

- **A Story Unfinished-Until Now** - One woman picks up the pen where another left off.
- **Love, Loss & the Fight to Matter** - A raw tribute to passion, purpose, and impact.
- **Rescue, Redemption & Rebellion** - Betsy's devotion to saving animals wasn't just kindness-it was defiance.
- **Words That Demand Connection** - A gripping memoir that turns grief into meaning.
- **No Ordinary Legacy** - A bold celebration of life, love, and one woman's untamed

For readers who loved *Marley & Me*, a poignant memoir about cats, dogs, and what it means to forge a friendship—in life and in death—with a person you can never meet.

Betsy Pauly died five years before Jen Braaksma knew she had even lived. Betsy was an artist and writer hailing from Minnesota, Texas, Missouri, and Florida. Jen is an author and book coach from Ottawa, Canada. Yet, improbably, Betsy became Jen's friend.

When Betsy died, she left behind a heartbroken husband, a hole in the hearts of her family and friends, and a half-finished manuscript. To honor his wife, Chips wanted to publish her animal stories—Betsy was a dedicated animal welfare advocate who could never say no to a stray dog or cat (or dozens!).

Turning manuscripts around is Jen's job. But as she worked, she never expected to form a friendship with the woman on the page. How was that even possible? Readers might feel they "know" an author by their writing, but Jen's experience went further. She got to see Betsy's drafts and her process. She got to see Betsy's *mind*. And in doing so, she got to know this extraordinary woman. This may be Jen's journey, but it's Betsy's story. A story about dedication, passion, and the connection that comes from sharing your authentic self—even between two people who can never meet.

About the authors: **Jen Braaksma** is the author of two young adult novels. She lives in Ottawa, Canada, with husband, children, and four cats. **Betsy Pauly**, originally from Minneapolis, began painting professionally in 1986, then turned to writing in 2010. Over the years, Betsy rescued more than one hundred cats, at least ten dogs, and one blind pigeon. She lived in Dallas, Texas, Carthage, Missouri, and Englewood, Florida, before her death in 2016.