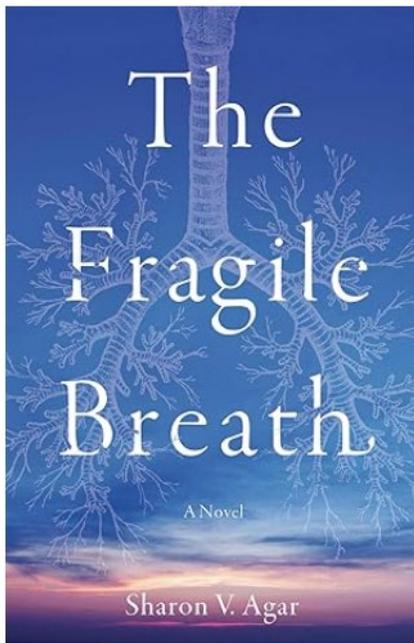




She Writes Press
Summer 2026 Fiction

Greg Brandenburgh

Biagi Literary Management



The Fragile Breath

A Novel

Sharon V. Agar

Selling points:

- **A gripping novel inspired by the author's real-life battle with terminal lung disease and transplant survival.**
- **Perfect for fans of *Still Alice* and *The Bright Hour*-emotional fiction with medical urgency and heart.**
- **Book club gold: explores resilience, marriage, mortality, and the fragile beauty of breath itself.**

When your next breath might be your last, what would you risk for a second chance at life?

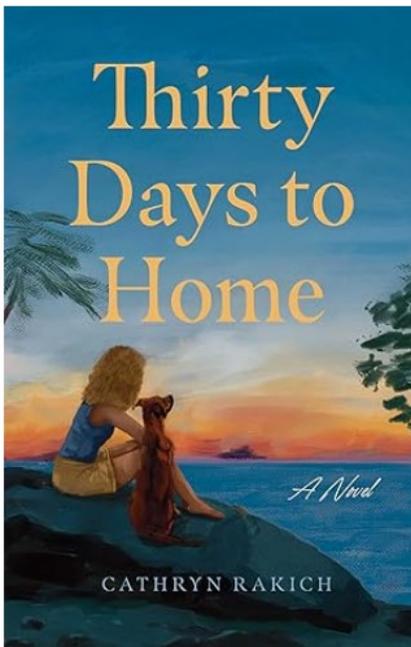
Sharon V. Agar delivers a heart-stopping, heart-mending novel based on her own extraordinary journey. Fiona Copeland is a fortysomething New Yorker with a terminal lung disease and a dwindling clock. Her only hope? A transplant center in Tennessee that promises lungs within a month-but only if she brings a full-time caregiver. With her husband unable to leave work, Fiona hires a stranger, Mason, to pose as her spouse. What begins as a desperate deception becomes a lifeline.

At Johnson's River, a grueling rehab center where patients train for surgery like Olympic athletes, Fiona finds herself in a community of the dying who refuse to give up. As weeks stretch into months without a transplant, Fiona's marriage frays, her hope flickers, and the weight of mortality presses in. But when Mason's young daughter unexpectedly arrives, Fiona discovers a new reason to fight: the fragile, unexpected beauty of a found family.

Told with wit, warmth, and unflinching honesty, *The Fragile Breath* is for fans of *Still Alice* and *The Bright Hour*. It's a novel about resilience, reinvention, and the messy, magnificent ways we love each other when everything is on the line. This is a story that will leave you breathless-and grateful for every breath you take.

About the author:

Sharon V. Agar earned her undergraduate degree from Yale University and later completed her MBA at a U.S. business school. Her academic foundation in finance and business strategy shaped her early career as an investment banker and corporate executive, and now informs the realism and complexity of her fiction.



First printing: 15,000



Thirty Days to Home

A Novel

Cathryn Rakich

Selling points:

- A heart-stopping mystery—thirty days, one missing woman, and secrets that could shatter everything.
- For fans of *The Girl on the Train*: relentless suspense and shocking twists keep you hooked.
- Immerse in a gripping countdown—readers race against time to uncover betrayal and buried truths.
- A novel of danger and deception—experience psychological tension that lingers long after the last page.
- Blends emotional depth with nail-biting intrigue—perfect for readers craving smart, character-driven suspense.

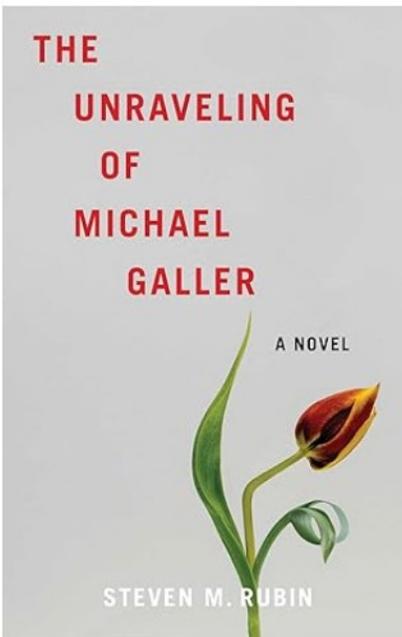
A moving debut about second chances, *Thirty Days to Home* follows a grieving woman who rediscovers purpose—and unexpected love—through her connection with a stray dog she meets on the streets of picturesque Puerto Escondido, Mexico.

Following the death of her son, Marli May accompanies her husband, Nick, on a work retreat to Puerto Escondido, Mexico, in an attempt to put her grief behind her and repair their strained marriage. But Marli's resilience is challenged once again when she receives an anonymous text message stating her son's death was not the accident she has been led to believe. Nick says it is a sick prank, and to forget about it. Of course, he has other things on his mind: He's having an affair with a coworker. Before the end of their trip he walks away from his marriage, leaving Marli alone in Mexico.

What can bring Marli back from despair this time? Mentally battered and 2,000 miles from home, she turns her attention to a stray street dog and a handsome veterinarian who harbors his own grief. She is told she must wait thirty days before taking the dog out of Mexico and into the United States. That's thirty days to reevaluate her future, find her strength, and discover the true reason for her son's death.

Filled with secrets, street dogs, and second chances, *Thirty Days to Home* follows Marli's journey as she finds the courage to confront her grief and rebuild her life on her own terms.

About the author: Cathryn Rakich, acclaimed journalist and former communications director, brings her storytelling mastery to fiction. A Sacramento State journalism graduate, she transforms decades of award-winning writing into gripping suspense, debuting with *Thirty Days from Home*, a novel readers can't put down.



The Unraveling of Michael Galler

Steven M. Rubin

Selling points:

- A gripping family drama blending science, secrets, and survival.
- Raw emotional depth meets high-stakes medical mystery thriller.
- Unflinching look at identity, resilience, and fragile hope.
- As addictive and shocking as *Gone Girl*, but even more intimate.

For fans of nuanced, slow-burn psychological dramas like *The Fault in Our Stars*, this gripping coming-of-age tale dives deep into obsession, identity, and the fragile line between love and fear.

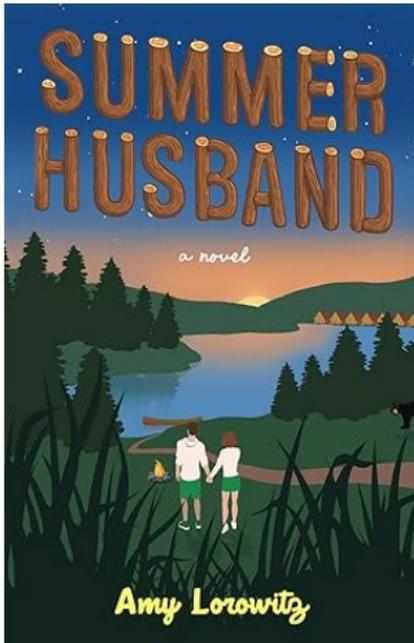
Michael Galler has always been running from grief, from uncertainty, and most of all, from the disease he believes is stalking him: cancer. After witnessing loved ones succumb to illness, Michael becomes consumed with fortifying his body against invisible threats. He juggles academics, athletics, and family responsibilities with relentless determination—until a new relationship promises comfort but ignites his darkest anxieties.

As Michael's fear spirals into obsession, every choice becomes a battle for control. Told with raw psychological intensity, *The Unraveling of Michael Galler* explores what happens when the quest for safety turns into self-destruction—and asks: how far will we go to outrun what we cannot see?

Why readers will love it:

- Psychological tension for fans of character-driven, emotional narratives.
- Themes of love, loss, and resilience for navigating fear or change.
- A gripping story that crescendos into a shocking, unforgettable twist.
- Perfect for readers of John Green and Celeste Ng who crave layered family drama.
- A cathartic journey that lingers long after the last page.

About the author Steven M. Rubin, Ph.D., is a technology innovator and thought leader with decades of experience in artificial intelligence and computer graphics. A former professor at Carnegie Mellon and Stanford, he has advised global companies. This is his debut novel.



Summer Husband

A Novel

Amy Lorowitz

Selling points:

- A witty, sun-soaked romance for fans of smart contemporary love stories.
- “A perceptive, emotionally grounded portrait of a woman confronting desire and self-definition.”—*Kirkus Reviews*
- Features a fake marriage twist with emotional depth and laugh-out-loud banter.
- Explores love, identity, and second chances in a breezy coastal setting.
- Comparable to *Beach Read* by Emily Henry for tone and appeal.

A compelling blend of sexy and nostalgic, this summer camp romance follows thirty-nine-year-old mom Lori Kramer as she finds out you’re never too old to learn the life lessons—or experience the romances—that sleepaway camp has to offer.

Is thirty-nine too old to get your first sleepaway camp kiss? Lori Kramer, a stay-at-home mom, would go to any length to give her two daughters the summer experience of their lives—even getting a job at their camp and tagging along with them.

At Camp Woodlands, Lori finds herself overseeing the chaos of four bunks filled with rambunctious kids and their counselors, not to mention having to outwit her boss and outrun a bear—and that’s just during the first half of the summer! But those escapades are child’s play compared to her growing friendship and attraction to Teddy, the camp’s British soccer coach. Their clandestine meetings late at night behind the laundry shack, breaking the no-smoking rule, soon turn hot and steamy like a lazy August afternoon.

Camp may be for kids, but Lori’s the one having the most fun. She never imagined that stepping outside of her conventional, underappreciated, New York City existence would turn her world upside down and change her life forever

About the author: Amy Lorowitz is a lifelong New Yorker. She grew up in Brooklyn, attended University at SUNY Binghamton, and ultimately made her home in Manhattan. *Summer Husband* is her debut novel. Visit her at <https://www.amylorowitz.com>.



When the Forest Dreams

A Modern Retelling of the Blue Castle

Andrea Ezerins

Selling points:

- **Perfect for fans of the strange and speculative: think fans of *American Gods*, *Earthlings*, or *On Earth as it is On Television*.**
- **For fans of gender-defying fiction.** Flawed, layered characters feel real, keeping readers hooked from start.
- **A psychedelic love letter to Los Angeles.**
- **Where contemporary meets the surreal.**
- **Inventive magic, fierce heroine, relentless twists, emotional depth, unforgettable world.**

For fans of L. M. Montgomery's *The Blue Castle*, a contemporary retelling of the beloved romance that follows a sheltered young woman's quest for love in New York City—and her search for a rare and elusive bird in the deep Arkansas forest.

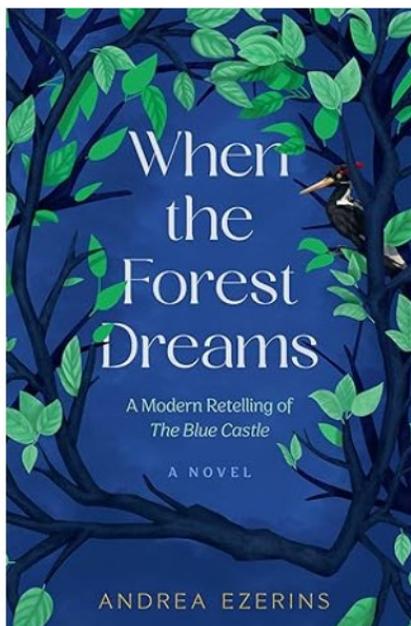
What if the life you were meant to live was waiting just outside your door?

New York City, 2013. Emma Jablonski's life is as dry as the day-old bread at her family's bakery. Living with her parents and grandmother, she clings to the only escape she knows: a recurring dream that feels more real than her waking world. But when Emma's eyes are open, she's reminded of what's out of reach—Jake, the enigmatic boy-next-door.

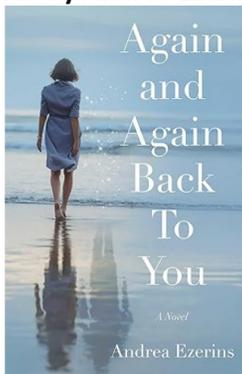
After a life-changing diagnosis forces her to face her fears, Emma decides it's time to truly live—before it's too late. With Jake and his vibrant friend Vee, she dives into a whirlwind of experiences: a fake engagement, dazzling parties, and an obsession with the elusive ivory-billed woodpecker, a bird that may not even exist.

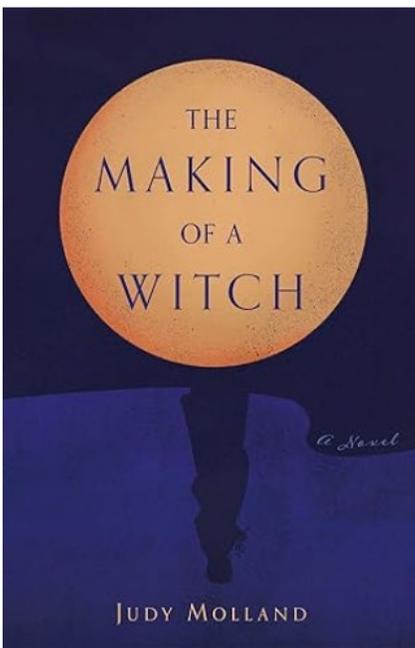
But as her daring adventure is coming to an end, Emma begins to embrace a future she never thought possible. Dreams and reality aren't supposed to mix . . . are they?

About the author: Alexandra Fleder is a Los Angeles-based writer and former Big Law litigation paralegal with over fifteen years' experience. After pandemic burnout, she transformed grief and anger into poetry and fiction, publishing chapbooks and *Woman Unbroken* (2023). <https://www.alexandrafleder.com/>



Als by Andrea Ezerins





The Making of a Witch

A Novel

Judy Molland

Selling points:

- **Gripping historical drama of courage and survival during witch trials.**
- **Authentic, ancestor-inspired story-immerses readers in 17th-century peril.**
- **Empowers fans of feminist historical fiction with resilience and justice.**
- **Perfect for readers of *The Heretic's Daughter*-equally haunting.**
- **Blends suspense, forbidden love, and heritage-offers emotional depth and hope.**

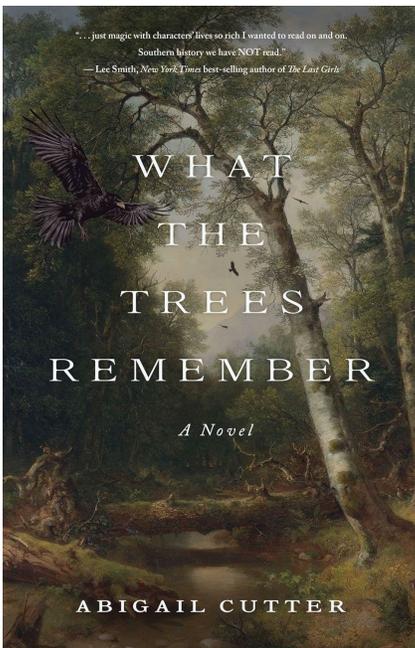
Inspired by true events, this novel tells the tale of young Alice Molland, who must grapple with accusations of witchcraft and the persecution of women with mysterious gifts in turbulent seventeenth-century England.

In the tumultuous era of seventeenth-century Exeter, England, Alice Molland, age ten, is forced to attend the brutal execution of her mentor in the healing arts, Goody Luscombe, who has been condemned to death for witchcraft. In the years that follow, with her use of herbs such as mugwort, slippery elm, and comfrey, Alice becomes well known as a magical healer. But such gifts come accompanied by danger in the times she lives in.

At fifteen, Alice becomes captivated by Richard Greenway, the son of a local merchant. Determined to make him hers, she draws him to her by anointing a red candle with rose oil and casting a love spell. But when she becomes pregnant, Richard abandons her and his father raises suspicion that Alice is a witch. Powerless against the mighty Sir William Greenway, Alice must leave Exeter for the village of Ivycombe, where she raises her son, Tommy.

When she is gifted a magic wand, Alice becomes the leader of the Full Moon Worshippers and her reputation as a healer grows—but can she survive in an age of misogyny?

About the author: Judy Molland began her career as a high school teacher of French, English, and Spanish, and soon added freelance writer to her job description. Her articles and blog posts have appeared in numerous publications, including *Parents*, *New York NewsDay*, and *Care2.com*. She has published two nonfiction books, *Straight Talk About Schools Today* and *Get Out! 150 Easy Ways for Kids and Grown-Ups to Get Into Nature and Build a Greener Future*. *The Making of a Witch* is her first work of fiction. She grew up in England and now lives in Missoula, Montana.



“A riveting read, rich in historic detail and moral complexity.” —
Geraldine Brooks, Pulitzer Prize–winning author of *March*

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When the Trees Remembered

A Novel

Abigail Cutter

Selling points:

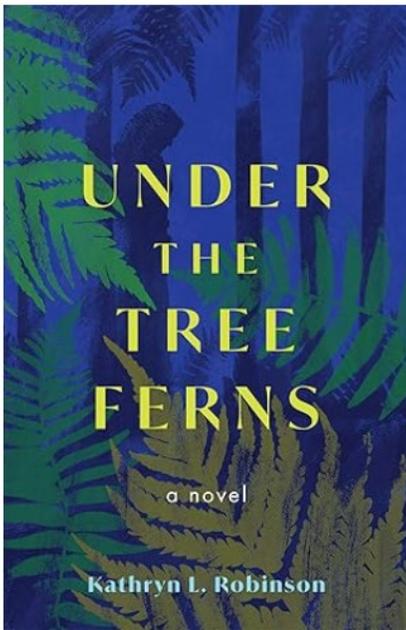
- “. . . just magic with characters’ lives so rich I wanted to read on and on. Southern history we have NOT read.”—Lee Smith, *NYT* best-selling author of *The Last Girls*
- A compelling post-Civil War historical novel.
- A lynching, a schoolhouse, and a reckoning.
- For fans of *The Inventions of Wings* by Sue Monk Kidd

Deeply researched and perfect for fans of Jayne Anne Phillips’s *Night Watch*, this action-packed coming-of-age tale, set in post–Civil War Appalachia, is part suspenseful mystery, part incisive examination of this nation’s history of racial violence.

Dora Minor, a bold Quaker girl raised in post–Civil War Appalachia, faces racial violence and family secrets after her father opens a school for Black children. Guided by her fierce grandmother and mystical allies, Dora uncovers truths that lead to healing.

A post–Civil War novel that opens just as Reconstruction is falling apart, *Cutter* depicts a time of social unrest and the birth of the Jim Crow as experienced by strong women constrained by the limitations of the time. Through the loss of loved ones, the destruction of the comfortable life they’ve known, and Nature’s wrath, Dora and Alma strive to rise above their trials by drawing strength from the natural world and never losing faith in themselves.

About the author: Abigail Cutter holds an MFA in printmaking from George Washington University and taught art before spending 15 years at the National Endowment for the Humanities. Her novels reflect deep historical research and a lifelong engagement with American culture and storytelling. She lives in Waterford, VA.



Under the Tree Ferns

A Novel

Kathryn L. Robinson

Selling points:

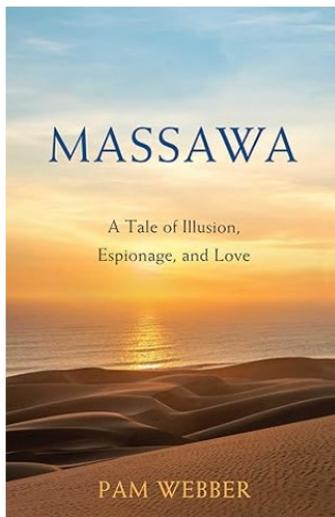
- A gripping Puerto Rican mystery-secrets buried beneath lush ferns unravel with shocking consequences.
- For fans of *The Couple Next Door*. tense twists, vivid setting, and unforgettable suspense.
- A novel of deception and desire-readers savor atmospheric danger and relentless psychological tension.
- Young Adult crossover, coming-of-age whodunit.

In 1942 Puerto Rico, the death of a middle-aged American woman in the heart of El Yunque Rainforest arouses little attention from anyone—except for the sixteen-year-old boy who finds her. Bright and introverted, Eduardo Colón initially shrinks from the publicity stirred up by his find. He has enough problems with his adoptive parents urging him to leave his sheltered life in Puerto Rico and study in the States. But when he learns the dead woman, Laura Morrison, was once his mother’s schoolmate, curiosity overcomes qualms and he searches island-wide for answers. What he discovers draws him into dangerous wartime intrigues and a tangle of disturbing personal connections.

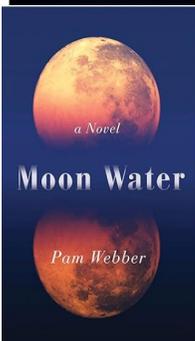
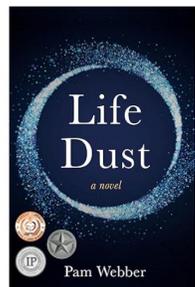
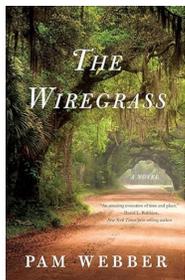
Decades later, Pamela Palmer sits on a balcony overlooking Lake Coeur d’Alene in northern Idaho, reminiscing about her years of teaching in Puerto Rico and the discovery of a grand-aunt who died there under mysterious circumstances. Playing amateur detective among her other roles of mother, divorcee, and island transplant, she eventually stumbles onto what really happened to Laura Morrison.

Reaching across different times, places, and cultures, Eduardo and Pamela find answers about the enigmatic woman—answers that change their lives.

About the author: Kathryn L. Robinson, lived for forty years in San Juan, Puerto Rico, where she taught university-level English and freelanced as a travel writer and editor. Her writing has appeared in newspapers, magazines, documentaries, and radio. She currently lives in Spokane, Washington.



Also by Pam Webber:



Massawa

A Tale of Illusion, Espionage, and Love

Pam Webber

Selling points:

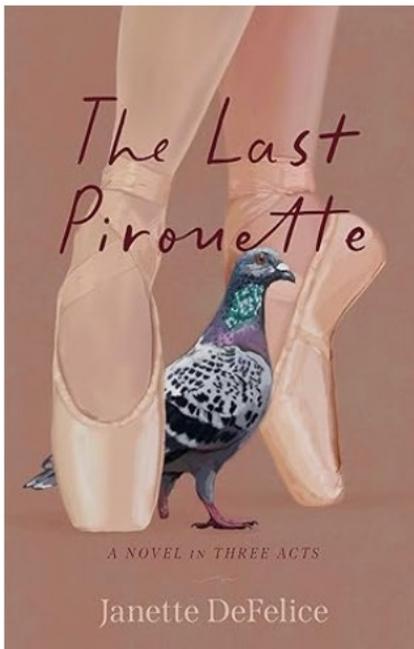
- A gripping WWII thriller set in Eritrea's strategic port.
- Reveals forgotten African frontlines and high-stakes espionage.
- Explores colonial intrigue, survival, and global wartime secrets.
- Vividly portrays East Africa's landscapes and cultural complexity.
- Brings untold WWII history to life with tense drama.

For fans of novels featuring strong, smart female protagonists, the first in a series about the novice female American spies in North Africa and the Mediterranean that changed the tide of World War II.

In 1942, during the height of World War II, Wild Bill Donovan, the director of the United States' first spy agency, believes women are the key to winning the intelligence battle with the Nazis. To that end, he partners fledgling agent Kit Thomas with British MI6 agent Mark Williams and sends them to one of the most perilous places in the world—Massawa, Eritrea—to investigate the theft of millions of military payroll dollars.

In Massawa, Kit and Mark discover a conspiracy by Nazi sympathizers, known as the Vichy, to shut down the only Allied naval base on the Red Sea—which is an essential resource in stopping the Nazi invasion of North Africa. As they work to reveal the conspirators, Kit and Mark engage in a dangerous and tempestuous dance of trust versus mistrust.

About the author: Pam Webber is an award-winning author and registered nurse with advanced degrees in nursing and education. She has taught at major universities, published in peer-reviewed journals, and brings deep expertise in health sciences to her acclaimed historical novels.



The Last Pirouette
A Novel in Three Acts
Janette DeFelice

Selling points:

- A literary debut that blends the grit of *Black Swan* with the emotional depth of *Ask Again, Yes*.
- The high-stakes world of elite ballet, where ambition, injury, and identity collide.
- Dual narrative of a rising dancer and her unraveling mother explores generational trauma and reinvention.
- Tackles themes of maternal sacrifice, artistic obsession, and the cost of silence with lyrical precision.
- Perfect for Book clubs

A haunting, high-stakes ballet of ambition, trauma, and maternal love—*The Last Pirouette* is a novel that dances on the edge of heartbreak and hope.

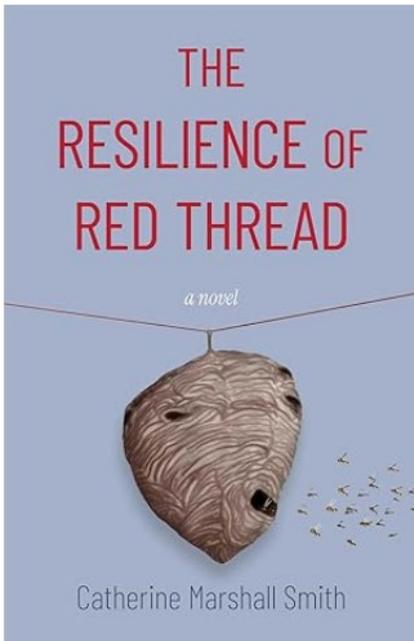
When Delia earns a coveted spot in a prestigious New York ballet company, she steps into a world of beauty, betrayal, and brutal ambition. But behind the curtain, her mother Victoria is unraveling—grappling with long-buried trauma and the wreckage of her own unrealized dreams. As Delia's rise is marred by injury and manipulation, Victoria embarks on a midlife metamorphosis, rediscovering desire and confronting the cryptic prophecy that shadows both their lives.

Janette DeFelice's debut novel is a feminist portrait of art, sacrifice, and rebirth. It's for readers of *The Mothers* by Brit Bennett and *The Night Watchman* by Louise Erdrich—those drawn to intergenerational stories where women fight to reclaim their voices.

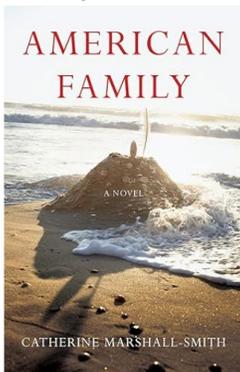
Set against the backdrop of elite dance culture and emotional survival, *The Last Pirouette* is perfect for book clubs, fans of literary fiction, and anyone who's ever had to choose between letting go and holding on.

About the author:

Janette DeFelice holds a Doctor of Medicine from Chicago Medical School, a Master of Arts in Humanities from the University of Chicago, and a bachelor's degree in Political Science from Indiana University. She's also served as a lecturer in Health Sciences, adjunct professor of humanities and political science, and medical writer. Her multidisciplinary background informs the emotional and intellectual depth of *The Last Pirouette*, blending trauma-informed insight with artistic nuance.



Also by Catherine Marshall Smith



"A nuanced portrait of what it means to be a family, with a bit of melodrama but plenty of heart."
—*Kirkus Reviews*



The Resilience of Red Thread A Novel

Catherine Marshall-Smith

Selling points:

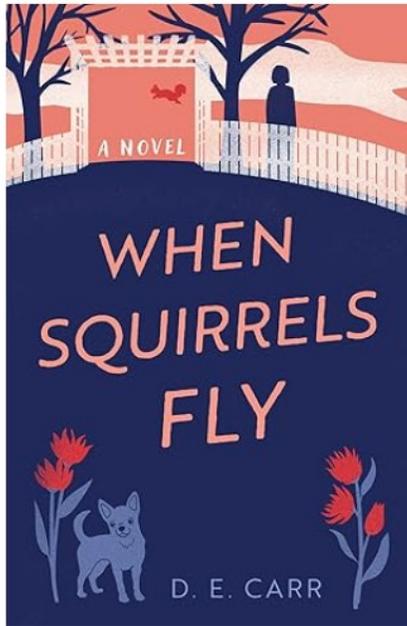
- A gripping family saga unraveling secrets across generations.
- Explores resilience, redemption, and the ties that bind.
- For fans of the layered drama of Ann Patchett's *The Dutch House*.
- Delivers emotional depth and hope through fractured relationships.

A luminous story of survival, forgiveness, and enduring love. This is an intense, suspenseful story of a young mother's fight to save herself after the man she thought was her white knight turns out to be just as dangerous as the man he helped her escape.

After twenty-one-year-old Emily Miller flees her ex-husband, Lee, with the exterminator she hired to kill hornets in her backyard, she finally feels safe. Jake Clayton offers Emily and her daughter a beautiful place to live where neither Lee nor her mother, who wants custody of Jenna, can find them. Unlike Lee, Jake has a steady job, doesn't drink (she's never met a man who doesn't), and doesn't hit. And he doesn't think Emily is too *much*—too mouthy (Lee), too large (her mother), too *extra*.

Isolated in a cabin in the Santa Cruz mountains with only a three-year-old for company, Emily distracts herself from the liquor cabinet and from worrying that Lee will track her down by planning a surprise for Jake: a reunion with the sisters he hasn't seen since foster care. But the deeper she digs into Jake's past, the less he seems like the man she trusts—and when she learns Lee has disappeared, she suspects Jake could have done . . . something. But that's ridiculous, right? Sure, Jake is bossy about where she goes and who she sees. Sure, he has a temper. But *murder*? That's just her being dramatic—like Lee and her mother always say she is.

About the author: Catherine Marshall-Smith is a founder of Café Writers Online, a weekly interactive forum for discussion led by experts on the craft of writing and publishing. She holds a bachelor's degree from UC Berkeley in English literature, a teaching credential from San Jose State University, and a Writing Credential from UCLA. She lives with her husband in the San Francisco Bay Area. Visit her at <https://catherinemarshallsmith.com>.



“... offers a unique storyline with wonderful characters and a few really great twists. . . . this is a fabulous mystery with plenty of room to stretch its legs. Very highly recommended.”—*Readers' Favorite, 5-star review*



When Squirrels Fly

A Novel

D. E. Carr

Selling points:

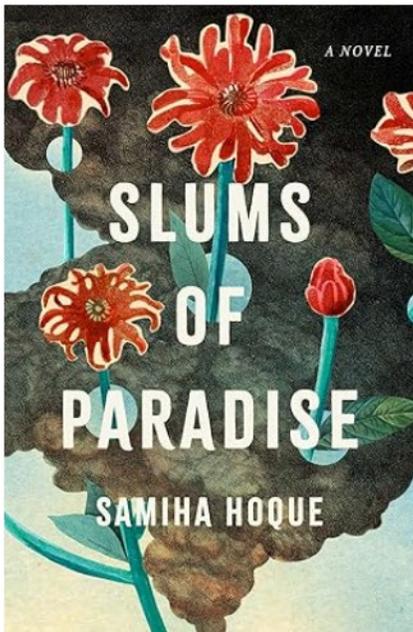
- Cozy mystery with a sci-fi twist.
- For fans of Connie Willis and Janet Evanovich.
- Set in brainy Ann Arbor with a neuropsych edge.
- Pet-fueled pandemonium.
- Comp title: *The Thursday Murder Club* by Richard Osman

For fans of Connie Willis, Lucy Lyons, and Janet Evanovich, a debut cozy mystery with a speculative bent, set in Ann Arbor, that’s replete with wormholes, incorrigible pets, and delightfully quirky characters.

When Allie Caldwell gets a rambling middle-of-the-night call from her very excited aunt Mel, she initially curbs her concern; her aunt has always been a bit eccentric, after all. But when Mel disappears before telling anyone what has her so worked up, Allie drops everything—even her better judgement—to fly to Ann Arbor and find her.

In the ensuing days, Allie inexplicably ignores her gut instincts (and some weird dream-based warnings from angry flying squirrels) and accepts help in the search from her aunt’s handsome, enigmatic neighbor George Bennet. In order to discern how virtual reality goggles, innovative migraine research, hidden treasure, attack drones, and a neighborhood trellis are all connected to the case, they’ll need to survive bungled bids of help from Allie’s well-meaning brother, hidden agendas from multiple neighbors, constant interruptions from Mel’s itinerant Chihuahua and his exuberant pit bull puppy pal—and even some attempts on their lives.

About the author: D. E. Carr is a neuropsychologist and community health expert whose career spans brain science, recreation management, and public wellness. Her fiction draws on academic rigor and real-world insight, rooted in the vibrant culture of Ann Arbor, Michigan.



Slums of Paradise
A Novel
Samiha Hoque

Selling points:

- **Step inside unseen worlds:** Experience Dhaka's slums through vivid, unforgettable storytelling.
- **Feel the human heartbeat:** Discover resilience and hope where survival is a daily fight.
- **Challenge your perspective:** Confront myths about poverty, privilege, and progress.
- **Immerse in culture:** Explore Bangladesh's vibrant reality beyond headlines and stereotypes.
- **Read with purpose:** If *Behind Beautiful Forevers* moved you, this book goes further.

Slums of Paradise takes readers inside a world where beauty and brutality collide. Set against the backdrop of Dhaka's sprawling slums, this powerful novel explores survival, resilience, and the fragile hope that blooms in the harshest places.

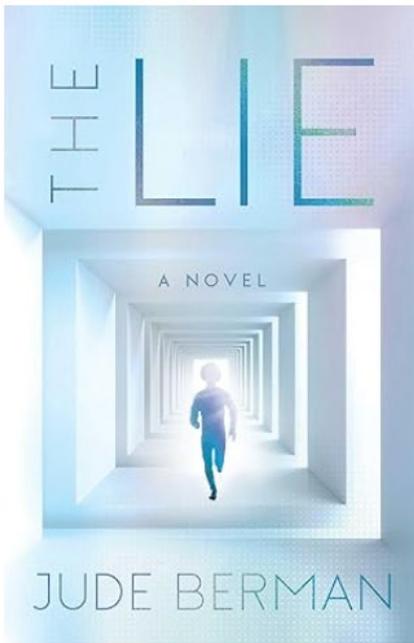
Through the eyes of unforgettable characters-families fighting for dignity, children chasing dreams beyond corrugated walls-Hoque reveals the human cost of poverty and the quiet strength that binds communities together. It's a story of ambition and betrayal, love and loss, and the choices that define us when the odds are stacked against us.

If you were moved by *Behind the Beautiful Forevers* by Katherine Boo, you'll find the same raw truth and emotional depth here-but with a voice that is fiercely original and rooted in Bangladesh's vibrant, complex reality.

Slums of Paradise is not just a novel-it's an experience that will change how you see resilience, justice, and the meaning of home.

About the author:

Samiha Hoque, founding editor of *Shaherazad Shelves*, is an award-winning Bangladeshi writer and two-time Climate Justice Fellow. A graduate of Earth & Environmental Sciences, she's completing her master's at NYU. Her debut novel, *Slums of Paradise*, won the She Writes Press STEP contest.

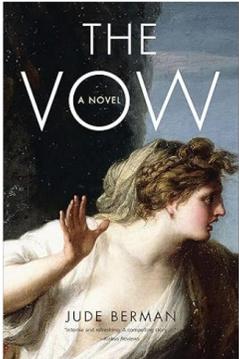


Also by Jude Berman



“An imaginative tale alive with captivating ideas.”

—**Kirkus Reviews**



“Intense and refreshing. A compelling story about life and art with vivid characters and an engaging setting.”—**Kirkus Reviews, STARRED**



The Lie

A Novel

Jude Berman

Selling points:

- **A Fresh Twist on Truth and Consequences.** One small lie spirals, reshaping lives in shocking, unforgettable ways.
- **Characters You Can't Stop Thinking About.** Flawed, layered characters feel real, keeping readers hooked from start.
- **Fast-Paced but Emotionally Deep.** Quick-moving plot reveals profound truths about trust and identity.
- **Perfect for Fans of Little Fires Everywhere.** Combines family drama and moral complexity with sharper psychological focus.
- **A Payoff That Sticks with You.** Surprising ending delivers insight, leaving readers questioning personal choices.

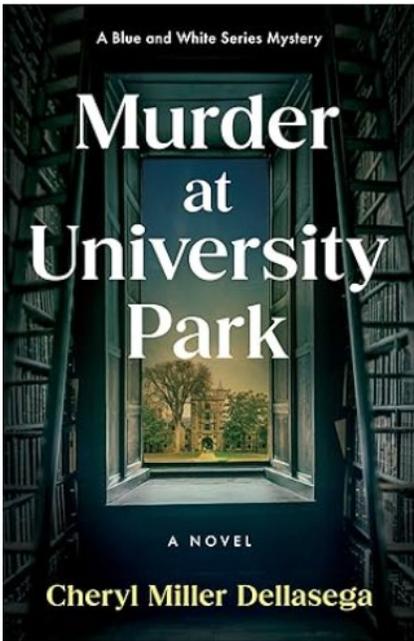
Dan Millman's *Way of the Peaceful Warrior* meets Dave Eggers's *The Circle* in this exhilarating tale, which marries visionary and political fiction together into a nail-biting, high-stakes thriller.

Cybersecurity whiz Jedd finds himself held captive, strapped to the ground in a dark tunnel, without food or water. June's campaign website has been hacked and she is viciously attacked by protesters. Darah flashes back to the terror of life under the dictatorship in the States, when her mother was deported.

Just when this group of friends thought they had defeated their enemies, they're faced with not one but multiple immediate threats. Rumors and accusations are flying, and the future of the democratic nation of California is at stake. Can they figure out who is telling the truth and who is lying before it's too late?

A taut combination of political, techno-thriller, and metaphysical fiction that's scaffolded on three realities—the ancient wisdom of the *Bhagavad Gita*, our current post-truth world, and the near future—this sequel to *The Die* is a fast-paced story about friendship, courage, and how to restore and revitalize truth, against as she digs into her background.

About the author: Jude Berman has a BA in art from Smith College and an EdD in cross-cultural communication from UMass Amherst. After a career in academic research, she built a freelance writing and editing business and ran two small independent presses. She lives in Berkeley. Visit her at <https://judeberman.com>.



First printing: 10,000



Murder at University Park A Novel

The first in the Blue and White Mystery series

Cheryl Miller Dellasega

Selling points:

- Academic ambition turns deadly in this gripping campus thriller.
- Secrets, power, and murder collide behind ivy-covered walls.
- A fearless heroine exposes corruption—at the risk of everything.
- Perfect for fans of *The Secret History* and dark academia.
- Twists and tension keep readers guessing until the shocking end.

For fans of *My Dark Vanessa* and *The Secret History*, a gripping campus thriller about a determined young professor who challenges a corrupt academic system, confronts a predator in power, and refuses to stay silent—even when her quest turns deadly.

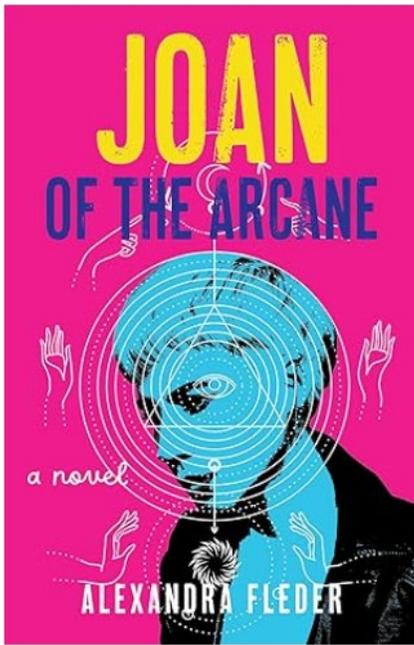
A brilliant young professor. A powerful advisor with everything to lose. A university campus hiding deadly secrets.

It's 1998, and Dr. Lacey Redd is on the verge of tenure—and under the thumb of her department chair, the arrogant and celebrated Dr. Geoffrey Hart. When Lacey begins to suspect Hart of falsifying his research, she quietly teams up with a tech-savvy colleague to uncover the truth. But before they can break the case, her partner turns up dead in the campus library.

As Lacey digs deeper, she uncovers something even darker: Hart has been preying on female graduate students for years. When he attacks her at a department party, Lacey fights back—leaving him injured and exposed. A new department head steps in, and with Hart out of the picture, it seems justice has finally been served.

But someone on campus is still watching. And they've decided Lacey knows too much.

About the author: Cheryl Miller Dellasega is professor emeritus of Medicine, Humanities, and Women's Studies at Penn State College of Medicine. She holds a Ph.D. in Health Education (Temple), completed postdoctoral fellowships in gerontology. Author of eleven books—including *Surviving Ophelia*, and *Mean Girls Grown Up*—she is a recognized expert on relational aggression. Visit her at: <https://www.cheryldellasega.com>.



“... a hypnotic fever dream. Arresting and absurd, it offers a piercing examination of suburban malaise, forced conformity, conspiracy theory rabbit holes, and the dangers of masquerading as someone other than your true self.”—Emily Jane, *USA Today*
Best-selling author of *On Earth as it Is on Television*



Joan of the Arcane

A Novel

Alexandra Fleder

Selling points:

- Perfect for fans of the strange and speculative: think fans of *American Gods*, *Earthlings*, or *On Earth as it is On Television*.
- For fans of gender-defying fiction. Flawed, layered characters feel real, keeping readers hooked from start.
- A psychedelic love letter to Los Angeles.
- Where contemporary meets the surreal.
- Inventive magic, fierce heroine, relentless twists, emotional depth, unforgettable world

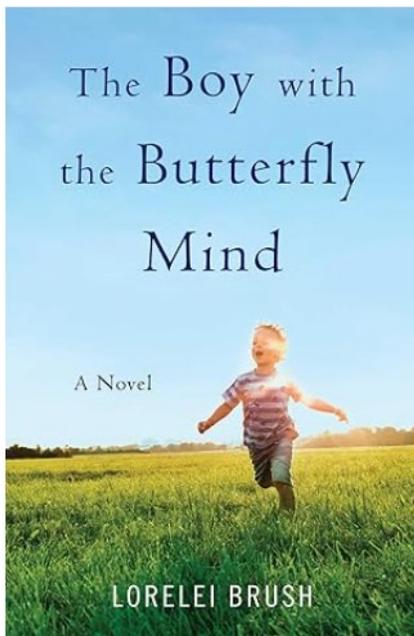
Perfect for fans of Mona Awad and Maria Semple, *this gripping, offbeat journey through modern-day Los Angeles is a genre-blending, darkly humorous exploration of suburban life, conspiracy theories, and spiritual awakening.*

A page-turning psychological trip for anyone who’s ever wondered if all their crazy ideas . . . might actually be right.

Joan is a middle-aged punk rocker turned housewife who’s seen too many TikToks to trust the official narrative. The moon landing? Faked. Weather? Controlled. Food? Poisoned. Her suspicions ignite when a strange new neighbor—possibly a dead astronaut with ties to secret ops—arrives on her block.

As Joan spirals deeper into the rabbit hole, she begins to question everything: her marriage, her sanity, and her soul’s purpose. Armed with a mystical book and a fading voice that once shook LA punk clubs, she sets out on a spiritual journey through canyon trails, desert portals, and shadow realms to expose the truth—and reclaim her power.

About the author: Alexandra Fleder is a Los Angeles–based writer and former Big Law litigation paralegal with over fifteen years’ experience. After pandemic burnout, she transformed grief and anger into poetry and fiction, publishing chapbooks and *Woman Unbroken* (2023).



The Boy with the Butterfly Mind

A Novel

Lorelei Brush

Selling points:

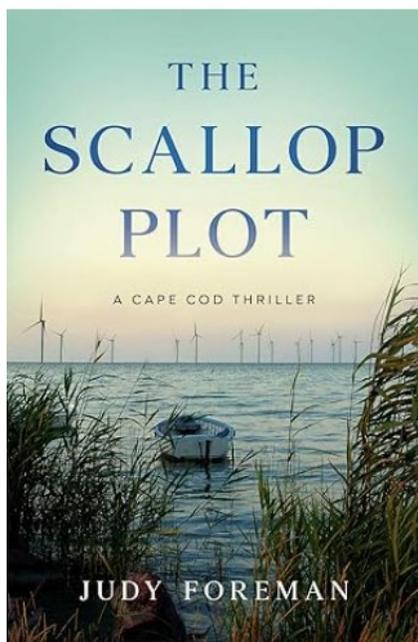
- A heartfelt story about ADHD, friendship, and resilience.
- Shows two kids bridging worlds through empathy and courage.
- Perfect for fans of *Wonder* by R.J. Palacio.
- Explores neurodiversity with honesty, hope, and emotional depth.
- Ideal for readers of *Fish in a Tree* by Lynda Mullaly Hunt.

For fans of Jodi Picoult's *House Rules*, an illuminating novel about a mother struggling to raise a healthy neurodivergent child with a husband worn down by depression.

When Julie Crawford's whirlwind four-year-old is kicked out of preschool, suspected of having ADHD—likely genetic—her husband moans from his recliner that “even my genes are failures.” At work, Julie is a high school math teacher who requires her students to solve complex problems. But faced with an unsafe daycare home and no other daycare openings, a husband who hates the idea of labeling their son as a “problem,” and a supervisor who's angry at the amount of time she's taking off school, she's at a loss for how to come up with a solution to this particular dilemma.

Julie's struggle to help her son ultimately demands a number of mindset shifts: a willingness to become a student and ask for help, a humble acceptance of her errors, a burgeoning strength to reckon with a dominant father and retreating husband—and the self-confidence to trust her instincts when it comes to deciding on the best next steps for her son.

About the author: Lorelei Brush is a college mathematics major, a former assistant professor of child development, and the parent of a neurodivergent child. The story in *Butterfly Minds* mixes elements of all three life experiences to describe the struggles and triumph of a young family dealing with neurodivergence. She lives in Falls Church, Virginia. Visit her at <https://loreleibrush.com>.



The Scallop Plot

A Cape Cod Thriller

Judy Foreman

Selling points:

- A gripping thriller set against coastal New England secrets.
- Explores greed, science, and environmental stakes with urgency.
- Combines suspense with rich marine biology and ethical dilemmas
- Ideal for readers of *The Overstory* by Richard Powers.

In this thriller, star investigative reporter Samantha Fuller joins a feisty Cape Cod fisherwoman to foil a wind farm developer's evil plot to poison precious ocean scallop beds—and finds herself facing off against right-wing climate deniers.

In Provincetown, MA, feisty scallop fisherwoman Isabella Ferreira goes up against a sleazy wind farm developer, Olaf Svensson, who wants to install wind turbines in the ocean right off the coast of Cape Cod.

At a nearby scallop hatchery, marine biologists Leif and Astrid Borgen are already using the new gene editing technique CRISPR to insert a growth hormone gene into scallop embryos to make them bigger and thus more profitable—all of which is legal. But unbeknownst to the hatchery owner, Svensson is also paying the pair to insert another gene—one that causes PSP, paralytic shellfish poisoning. If this works, no one will ever eat scallops from this site again, thus freeing it up for Svensson's turbines.

Enter Pulitzer Prize-winning *Boston Times* reporter Samantha Fuller. Together with Isabella, she slowly uncovers Svensson's deadly plot—but not before hundreds of people die. Along the way, love blossoms, tragedies occur, and the subtleties of the pro- and anti-wind power groups are exposed.

About the author Judy Foreman is a former Boston Globe health columnist and the author of three works of nonfiction from Oxford University Press. She was a Lecturer on Medicine at Harvard Medical School, a Fellow in Medical Ethics, also at Harvard Medical School, a Knight Science Fellow at MIT, and a Senior Fellow at the Schuster Institute for Investigative Journalism at Brandeis University. She has won more than fifty journalism awards, including a George Foster Peabody Award and a Science in Society award from the National Association of Science Writers. She lives near Boston. Visit her at <https://judyforeman.com>.