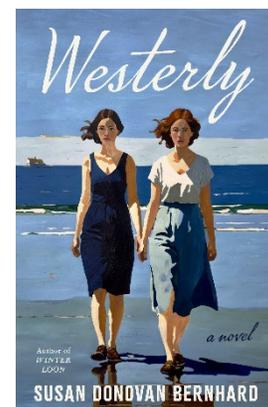
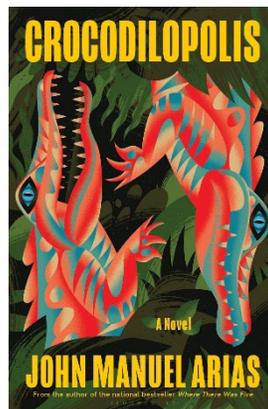
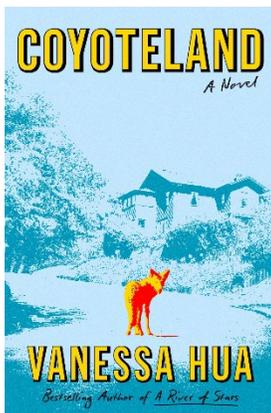


# LONDON 2026

## ADULT FICTION

### Rights Guide

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# FRONTLIST

John Manuel Arias

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## LITERARY

# CROCODILOPOLIS

\*National bestselling author

### SYNOPSIS

A novel following two brothers from their upbringing on a Costa Rican coffee estate in the 1970s to their clashing political careers thirty years later.

**Seth** Oreamundo dreams of vengeance. For the past ten years, he's been exiled in D.C., prohibited from returning home to Costa Rica, where he was once a high-ranking government official but now is disgraced and despised.

**Osario** Oreamundo, his younger brother, is to blame.

When a macabre nature show about a vicious crocodile attack reminds Seth of a childhood memory he's all but erased, Seth hatches a plan—one that involves a crocodile-infested river—to return to his rightful place among Costa Rica's elite.

Alternating between Seth's wily murder plot and the boys' privileged upbringing on a sprawling coffee estate in politically fraught 1970's and 80's Costa Rica, *Crocodilopolis* is a darkly witty, biblical, and soapy tale of a "royal" Costa Rican family that masterfully interrogates power, destiny, and legacy.

### PRAISE

"The tales John Manuel Arias spins are as gripping as they are stunningly written. A natural born storyteller of the highest order."

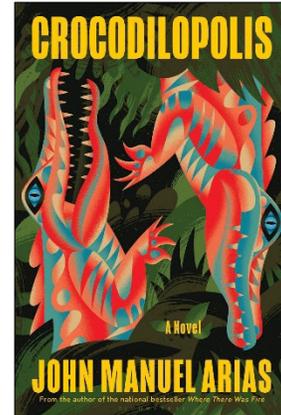
—**Justin Torres**, National Book Award-winning author of *Blackouts*

"CROCODILOPOLIS is a lush, ambitious take on Cain and Abel intertwined with the rich history of Costa Rica."

—**Silvia Moreno-Garcia**, author of *Mexican Gothic*

### THE AUTHOR

John Manuel Arias is the author of the national bestseller *Where There Was Fire* (Flatiron Books, 2023 and UK to Picador). He has lived in Washington, DC; Brooklyn, New York; and in San José, Costa Rica, with his grandmother and four ghosts.



Bloomsbury US  
August 25, 2026  
North American  
Manuscript available

## Susan Donovan Bernhard

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### UPMARKET

# WESTERLY

#### SYNOPSIS

In an unforgettable saga of survival, motherhood, sisterhood, and the secrets that haunt us, one desperate decision creates a fault line that spans decades and threatens to break a family wide open.

In 1946, two German sisters, child refugees in a program dubbed Operation Shamrock, arrive in Ireland to live in foster care while Europe recovers from war. Nearly fifty years later, on a fateful day in a bustling Maine farmhouse, an Irish newspaper clipping threatens to unravel Faye Sullivan's carefully constructed life with husband William and daughters Maeve and Molly, a life already on the brink of collapse.

When tragedy strikes and the Sullivans grapple with a cascade of buried secrets, Faye must confront the truth of a childhood summer in West Cork marked by adventure, heartbreak, and a life-altering decision that now jeopardizes everything she holds dear. And while their bonds may not be what they seemed, those bonds might be the one thing strong enough to help the broken Sullivan family navigate the truth and find their way forward together.

From Germany to Ireland to coastal Maine, this tender family saga explores identity, reconciliation, and the true meaning of home.

#### PRAISE

"Powerful and immersive, *Westerly* is an extraordinary novel... Bernhard reveals with stunning prose why we strive to endure, to change, and ultimately to heal. An utterly beautiful achievement."

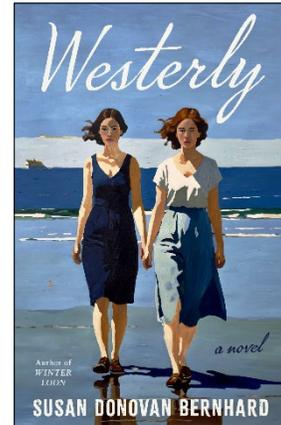
—**Marjan Kamali**, *New York Times* bestselling author of *The Lion Women of Tehran*

"*Westerly* is a portrait of family in all its fragility and grace—a story that will break your heart, then leave it wiser."

—**Janet Rich Edwards**, author of *Canticle*

#### THE AUTHOR

Susan Donovan Bernhard is the author of *Winter Loon* (Little A, 2018), an Amazon bestseller and winner of the Boston Authors Club Julia Ward Howe Prize for Fiction. Susan is a Massachusetts Cultural Council fellowship recipient and a graduate of the GrubStreet Novel Incubator program. She was born and raised in the Bitterroot Valley of western Montana, is a graduate of the University of Maryland, and lives with her husband and two children near Boston.



Little A (Amazon)  
June 2, 2026  
World English  
Manuscript available

Janet Burroway

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## HISTORICAL

# SIMONE IN PIECES

### SYNOPSIS

A WWII refugee's search to recover—and reconnect with—her past.

Readers first meet Simone Lerrante, a Belgian war orphan, as a child refugee in Sussex, England, her memory damaged by trauma. This novel offers a kaleidoscopic vision of her fractured life and piecemeal understanding of self across multiple points of view.

Following her from Cambridge to New York City and across the United States—through a disastrous marriage, thwarted desire, and the purgatory of academic backwaters—the novel charts Simone's unexpected reconnection with her past, which provides both autonomy and inspiration for her future.

Janet Burroway slowly reveals a multifaceted, fascinating protagonist, who observes her own life without always allowing herself to be immersed in it. Spanning seven decades, this story is both epic and contained, rewarding readers at every turn.

### PRAISE

"In a series of slyly eloquent chapters that follow Simone Lerrante from childhood into her 60s, we see her through the refracting context of the people she meets." —*The New York Times*

"A well-crafted tale of a war orphan's decades-spanning journey of self-discovery." —*Publishers Weekly*

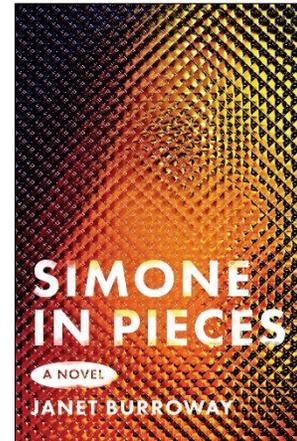
"As Simone creates collages from fragments of photographs, this novel delivers similar aesthetic surprise and satisfaction." —*Kirkus*

"This book is stupendous. I loved it so, so much. An assemblage, fragments that bring vividly to life a woman, an era, a world—or rather many worlds—this book is a marvel and a delight."

—*Ayelet Waldman*, author of *Love and Treasure*

### THE AUTHOR

Janet Burroway, the author of *Writing Fiction: A Guide to Narrative Craft*, has written eight previous novels, as well as a memoir, plays, short fiction, children's books, and more. Recipient of the Florida Humanities Council's Lifetime Achievement Award in Writing, she is Robert O. Lawton Distinguished Professor Emerita at Florida State University at Tallahassee.



University of Wisconsin  
Press  
November 2025  
North American

Betty Cayouette

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ROMANCE

# TELL ME HOW YOU REALLY FEEL

**\*TROPES:** Second Chance, Forced Proximity, Enemies-to-Lovers

## SYNOPSIS

Podcasters Maeve and Finn have just gotten a life-changing, deal for their viral sex and relationships podcast. Unfortunately, they can barely be in the same room together.

Maeve and Finn have just landed the deal of a lifetime. Their groundbreaking sex and relationships podcast *Tell Me How You Really Feel* is going exclusive with Streamify. The only problem? They absolutely *hate* each other.

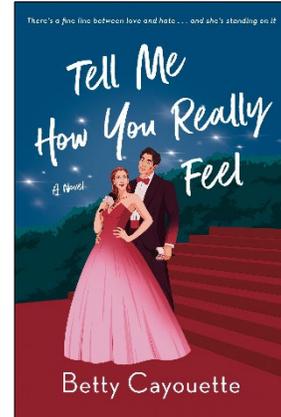
For the past three years, therapist Maeve and nepo-baby Finn have recorded their podcast and told listeners every detail of their search for Mr. and Mrs. Right. Nothing's off limits as the friends debrief on their dates, sex life and feelings. But somewhere along the way their own relationship got... *complicated*.

Now, their new contract is kicking in and they have to find a way to work together. If they don't, their deal could be terminated, *and* they'll miss out on their chance to beat out conservative podcaster Paul Myers.

Maeve can't think of anything she'd like to do less than podcast with Finn. He captured her heart only to crush it into a million pieces. But as they work together to take the show to new places, their chemistry is palpable and feelings that she swore she'd buried start to resurface. Just when Maeve thinks that they *finally* might get their relationship right, new information comes to light that makes her wonder: will the podcast be what brings them together, or will it drive them apart forever?

## THE AUTHOR

Betty Cayouette is an author, viral video content creator and cinematographer. She created @bettysbooklist, the viral TikTok/Instagram account which is one of the top book recommendation accounts in the world. Her debut novel, *One Last Shot*, published in 2024.



St. Martin's Griffin  
(Macmillan)  
May 2025  
North American

Bulgarian to **Ciela\***;  
Croatian to **Znanje**;  
German to **Blanvalet\***;  
Polish to **Luna\***; UK to  
**Century\***

**\*International rights  
previously sold by Triada  
US Literary Agency**

Lynn Cullen

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## HISTORICAL

# WHEN WE WERE BRILLIANT

### SYNOPSIS

They were an unlikely pair—a blond bombshell and a photographer determined to be taken seriously—but Marilyn Monroe and Eve Arnold would make a deal that would change their lives.

In 1952, Norma Jeane Baker follows documentary photographer Eve Arnold into a powder room on the night they first meet. She has a proposition for her. Norma Jeane created Marilyn Monroe to be photographed, and she wants Eve to do it. Eve is better than anyone she's seen at revealing a person's inner truth. Together they can help each other. Together, she says, they can make something brilliant.

Skeptical of this cipher of a young woman, Eve demurs. She's looking for more serious subjects than this ambitious starlet. But she keeps getting drawn back into Marilyn's orbit, and the women come to recognize something in each other—something fundamental. Nothing will get in the way of what they want, and when Marilyn's star takes off to teetering heights, neither will ever be the same.

A lavish and transporting novel, *When We Were Brilliant* captures the halcyon days of an icon and the grit of women determining their own futures as it explores the exceptional and complicated friendship between Eve Arnold and Marilyn Monroe.

### PRAISE

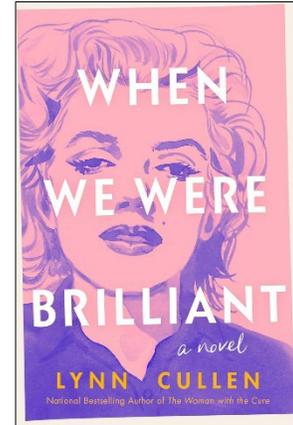
"A whirlwind tour through both the light and the dark of Hollywood's golden era."—**Allison Pataki**, *NYT* bestselling author of *It Girl*

"Cullen powerfully captures the almost-impossible lives of professional women in the 1950s and '60s."—**Lauren Belfer**, *New York Times* bestselling author of *City of Light* and *Ashton Hall*

"Impeccable research and detail."  
—**Pam Jenoff**, *NYT* bestselling author of *Last Twilight in Paris*

### THE AUTHOR

Lynn Cullen is the bestselling author of *Mrs. Poe*, which was named an NPR 2013 Great Read and an Indie Next List selection, and *The Woman with the Cure*, an instant bestseller in Germany (**Fischer Verlag**).



**Berkley**  
**(Penguin Random House)**  
**January 2026**  
**World English**

German to **Fischer Verlag**

Christopher John Farley

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## UPMARKET

# WHO KNOWS YOU BY HEART

### SYNOPSIS

A sharp satire on the tech industry, inspired by the author's years as an executive at Audible. Software engineer Octavia has to make hard choices when the startup she works for faces a takeover by a Big Tech corporation.

Octavia Crenshaw is a thirty-year-old Black coder who is broke, burned out, and haunted by her mother's debts. She lands a job at Eustachian Inc., a digital audio entertainment company with a mysterious founder.

Octavia's coding skills earn her a spot on a so-called "Red Team," an elite unit that tries to steal data from inside the company so security flaws can be sealed against outsiders. But Octavia soon discovers that Eustachian is collecting personal data on its customers (and employees) that goes far beyond what she ever imagined.

She teams up with Walcott (colleague, full-time nerd and soon-to-be boyfriend) on a secret project. They'll develop a new AI-powered product that will change the company culture and make Eustachian the undisputed market leader.

But when a Big Tech company takes over Eustachian, Octavia is faced with a shocking truth, ultimately forced to choose between her career and everything she stands for.

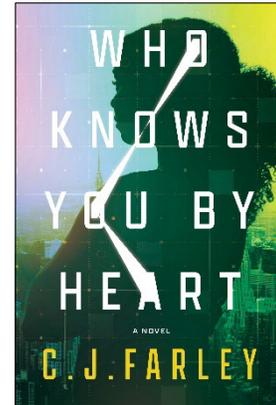
### PRAISE

"*Who Knows You by Heart* is witty, incisive, funny and deeply prescient."  
—Imani Perry, National Book Award-winning author of *South to America*

"A very entertaining and ambitious mash-up of genres: thriller, science fiction and romance. If Dave Eggers's *The Circle* was a parable for the early 2010s social media age, Farley's book is one for the ChatGPT-happy 2020s." —*The New York Times*

### THE AUTHOR

C.J. Farley is a graduate of Harvard University, a former music critic for *Time* magazine, and a former executive editor at Amazon Inc's Audible. He is the author of *Zero O'Clock* (Akashic Books). Farley is senior director of arts programming and development at PBS.



William Morrow  
(HarperCollins)  
November 2025  
North American

Vanessa Hua

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## LITERARY

# COYOTELAND

### SYNOPSIS

A funny, heartfelt novel set in an affluent Bay Area suburb where a Chinese American family moves in and sets off a series of scandals.

Living in El Nido, a privileged community in Berkeley, is supposed to mean you've made it. So when Jin Chang moves there with his wife and daughters after years of scraping by, he hopes it will finally be the end of his bad luck. What his family doesn't know is that he's bending the rules for one final scheme: to make it big in real estate. Next door, Blair Belle prides herself on her progressive politics. After all, she treats their new nanny, Ana Rodriguez, and her daughter like family—even if she doesn't know them all that well. But she can't help but feel skeptical of the new neighbors, especially when she begins to suspect that Jin's plans might interfere with the Belle's own luxury development.

Jin's teenage daughter Jane can tell her dad is keeping a secret, but she's also struggling to navigate El Nido's cliques. Tasha Washington has always felt isolated, too, as one of the only Black girls at the school. In the wake of a coyote attack, Jane and Tasha bond. Together, they hatch a plot to expose the town's hypocrisies. The shockwaves will rock their own families.

As the roaming coyote continues to unleash chaos, the characters become embroiled in a series of scandals that will change El Nido forever.

### PRAISE

"Who among us doesn't enjoy a messy, layered family drama? *Coyoteland* promises to be as dynamic and explosive a suburban drama as *Little Fires Everywhere*." —**LitHub** (Most Anticipated)

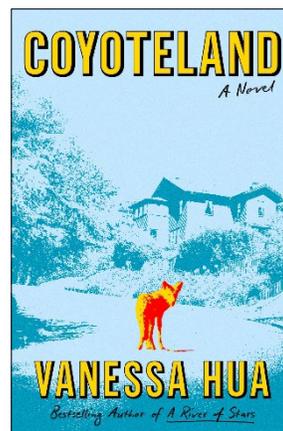
"In training a discerning eye on one small, close-knit community, Hua opens up an entire world." —**Kirstin Chen**, author of *Counterfeit*

"Vanessa Hua has crafted a riveting, multi-layered novel that brims with humor and insight." —**Angie Kim**, *New York Times* bestselling author of *Happiness Falls*

"No one writes like Vanessa Hua." —**R. O. Kwon**, author of *Exhibit*

### THE AUTHOR

Vanessa Hua is the author of the national bestselling novels *A River of Stars* and *Forbidden City*, as well as the story collection *Deceit and Other Possibilities*, a *New York Times* Editors' Pick.



Flatiron Books  
(Macmillan)  
May 19, 2026  
World English  
Manuscript available

Eowyn Ivey

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## LITERARY

# BLACK WOODS BLUE SKY

\*Author is a *New York Times* bestseller and Pulitzer Prize finalist

\*Her debut novel, *The Snow Child*, sold over a million copies

### SYNOPSIS

A mesmerizing novel with life-and-death stakes about the love between a mother and daughter, and about the lure of a wild life—about what we gain and what it might cost us.

Unhappy and drinking too much, Birdie balances her days between caring for her six-year-old daughter, Emaleen, and working as a bar waitress at a roadside lodge in Alaska.

Arthur Nielsen is a soft-spoken recluse who calls the mountains on the far side of the Wolverine River his home, and as Birdie begins to fall in love with him, she imagines a different life for herself and her daughter.

Eventually, Birdie and Emaleen pack their few belongings and follow Arthur to his remote cabin on the mountains. In the beginning, it is an idyllic life—the three of them catch salmon, pick berries and swim in sunlit waters. But soon Birdie realizes that she is not at all prepared for what lies ahead: Arthur harbors a dark secret and the Alaska wilderness is as mysterious and dangerous as it is beautiful.

### PRAISE

“A fable about what it is to love, a tale of longing, a call to renew our deepest bonds with the living world.”

—**Louise Erdrich**, Pulitzer Prize winning author of *The Night Watchman*

“A stunning tale told by a master of her craft.”

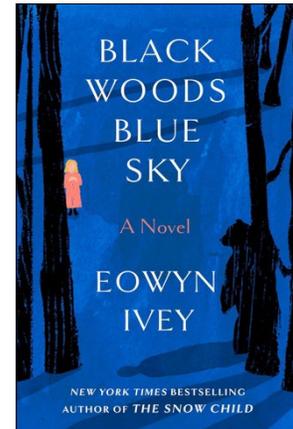
—**Jason Mott**, National Book Award winning author of *Hell of a Book*

“A enthralling novel about the endurance of love, the power of forgiveness and the savage, irresistible allure of wild places.”

—**Paula Hawkins**, author of *The Girl on the Train*

### THE AUTHOR

Eowyn LeMay Ivey is the author of the *New York Times* bestseller and Pulitzer Prize finalist *The Snow Child* (Little Brown & Company, 2012), which sold over a million copies in the US and was translated into thirty languages. She was raised in Alaska and continues to live there with her husband and two daughters.



Random House  
(Penguin Random House)  
February 2025  
North American

French to **Éditions Gallmeister**; Italian to **Einaudi** (Mondadori Group); Romanian to **Humanitas**; Slovak to **Fortuna Libri**; Spanish to **Hoja de Lata**; Turkish to **Olimpos**; UK to **Headline (Hachette UK)**; Hungarian to **Kossuth Kiadó**

Emiko Jean

## THRILLER

# BEFORE YOU WERE ANNE

CHELSEA CALHOUN #2

\**New York Times* bestselling author  
\*Sold at auction in a two-book deal  
\*Co-represented with Alloy Entertainment, LLC

### SYNOPSIS

**A murdered woman. A missing daughter. A truth buried across two continents.**

Married, pregnant, and thriving in her career, Detective Chelsey Calhoun's life finally feels whole... until an explosive new case shatters everything. A mother is dead. Her sixteen-year-old daughter, Naomi, has disappeared. And the search will awaken questions about Chelsey's own origins—questions she's spent a lifetime afraid to ask.

The victim called herself Anne Walker. But she was born Rika Takahashi, and her journey from a remote Japanese farm to suburban Seattle conceals decades of deception. Across Tokyo's shadowed underworld, an isolated Idaho town, and years of carefully constructed lies, Rika reinvented herself at every turn. But she was always running—from someone, or something. Now Chelsey must find Naomi before she becomes the next victim. But the deeper she delves into Rika's hidden life, the more she discovers: some secrets are worth killing for. And the most dangerous truths may be the ones closest to home.

Told in three interwoven voices, *Before You Were Anne* is a gripping suspense novel about the lies that bind families and the sins that echo across generations.

**Book #1 in the series – THE RETURN OF ELLIE BLACK (May 2024);** Brazil to **Darkside Books**; Czech to **Zoner**; Dutch to **Cargo**; German to **Goldmann**; Hungarian to **Maxim**; Japanese to **Hayakawa**; Turkish to **Indigo Kitap**; UK to **Viking (PRH UK)**; Ukrainian to **Vivat**

### PRAISE FOR *THE RETURN OF ELLIE BLACK*

"Jean has written an impressive crime novel here.... An unexpected ending and a cadre of heroic female characters make Jean a crime writer to watch."  
—*Kirkus*

"A page-turning suspense novel, a shrewd character study, and a captivating mystery, all at the same time." —**Stephen King**

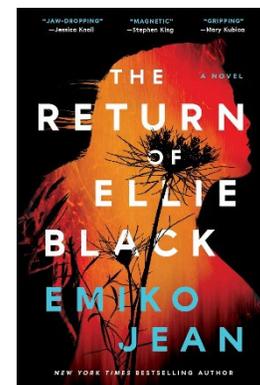
### THE AUTHOR

Emiko Jean is a *New York Times* bestselling author of young adult and adult fiction. Her work has been translated into over thirty languages. She lives in Washington with her family.



**Simon & Schuster**  
**October 2026**  
**North American**  
**Manuscript available**

German to **Goldmann**; UK  
to **Viking (PRH UK)**



Gus Krieger

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**BOOK CLUB / SPECULATIVE**

**THE SEVENTH RIBBON**

**\*Sold in a six-figure pre-empt**

**SYNOPSIS**

**A moving, whimsical debut love story of “what if” about a grieving widow who attempts to rewrite her past with magical typewriter ribbons to try to save her husband from his unfortunate fate, for readers of *In Five Years* and *Me Before You*.**

Alone in her snowbound oceanfront cottage, Caroline Ora mourns the loss of her beloved husband Forest, killed earlier that year in a violent hit-and-run. Once a celebrated poet, Caroline now spends her days drowning in grief... until an unlikely discovery changes everything.

Buried deep in her attic in a dusty wooden case, Caroline finds several ancient typewriter ribbons. Spontaneously using one to write a story — a simple “what if” wherein her anguish has loosened its grip — Caroline wakes to find it’s miraculously come true.

Moment by moment, word by word, Caroline sets about rewriting her life, resurrecting her husband through ink and memories. But as the lines between fiction and reality begin to blur, Caroline learns that every wish has its cost, and every miracle has its reckoning.

Riveting, funny and heartbreaking by turns, this is an inventive and unforgettable love story.

**THE AUTHOR**

Gus Krieger is a screenwriter and playwright whose Audible Original “Superworld” debuted in the summer of 2020 and was quickly optioned for adaptation by Warner Bros. Entertainment and director Jason Bateman. His work has premiered at the Sundance Film Festival, and his original screenplay “The Horror Game” was optioned by CinemaWays and Concourse Media for director Greg McLean and star Ella Balinska, and is currently in preproduction. He lives in Los Angeles with his family.



**Grand Central Publishing  
(Hachette)**

**October 27, 2026**

**North American**

**Manuscript available**

# Kermit Lynch

## UPMARKET

# AT POUPON'S TABLE

### SYNOPSIS

A debut novel from a James Beard Award–winning American wine merchant, the renowned Kermit Lynch. In the idyllic French countryside, an American wine expert tries to save his view and rescue his best friend.

Kendrick Thomas is an easygoing American wine merchant happily residing in Provence. Ever eager to visit old friends and enjoy all the gastronomic pleasures available in France, he often finds himself on the doorstep of Henri Poupon. Built as ruggedly as a boxer, thick of finger and feature, Poupon is as physically untamed and earthy as his skill as a chef is delicate and exquisite.

Kendrick and Poupon set off on a road trip: eating, bickering, laughing, and of course, sampling wine both good and bad. From troublesome business associates to Poupon's shady ex-girlfriend to an appalling new cell tower tarnishing the local tranquility, *At Poupon's Table* is a riotous jaunt through the French countryside that always circles back to food—and of course reds, whites, and everything in between.

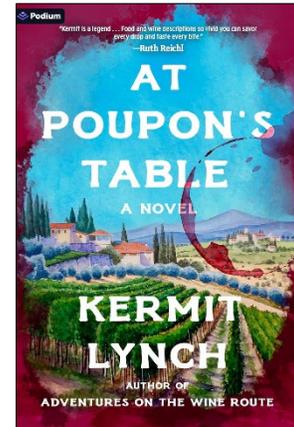
### PRAISE

"A lilting paean to the slow daily delights of eating and drinking well... The text is peppered with food descriptions so detailed that they are almost recipes and wine pairings so carefully chosen that it's hard not to salivate." —*San Francisco Chronicle*

"The detailed depictions of wine, food, and landscapes evoke deep sensory pleasure... A fun, atmospheric novel." —*Kirkus*

### THE AUTHOR

Kermit Lynch is a world-renowned wine merchant as well as an author, having published three books, including the award-winning *Adventures on the Wine Route* (French to **Payot & Rivages**). His many accolades include having been knighted by the French government by the Legion d'Honneur, France's highest civilian award, and two James Beard awards. Lynch divides his time between Provence and Berkeley, where his distinguished wine store is located.



Podium  
September 2025  
World English

Duncan Murrell

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**BOOK CLUB / HISTORICAL**

# THE LAST LILIES OF GIVERNY

**\*Sold in a pre-empt in a major, two-book deal**

## SYNOPSIS

It's 1914. France is on the brink of war, and Claude Monet has embarked on the most important paintings of his life – the monumental water lily cycle which will define his career and transform the artworld. Going blind, he lives in the care of his daughter-in-law Blanche. They are both in mourning, and the dead are all around them.

Then Blanche discovers that Claude may have killed his first wife. Could the great Claude Monet, the man to whom she's dedicated her life, be a murderer? She burrows into the past, tracking down the last surviving Impressionists who knew her family, while Claude desperately paints the last paintings of his life, and as the world around them crumbles into war. This is *The Last Lilies of Giverny*.

Told in two braided chronologies, the story alternates between the present of 1914 and the past of 1879, as the romance between Monet and his first wife, Camille, unfolds and disintegrates. The novel results, more than anything, into a story about art: about what we create when loss is all we have — set against the lush backdrops of the Impressionist movement, populated by some of the most famous paintings ever created.

At a time when we need art more than ever, *The Last Lilies of Giverny* invites readers to share in a personal, immersive look at the world of Claude Monet – one of the most recognized painters ever, whose personal story has rarely been told.

## THE AUTHOR

Duncan Murrell is a former acquisitions editor at Algonquin, and a writer and journalist. Besides being obsessed with Monet, Murrell holds an MFA from Bennington College and currently works as a freelance editor — he worked on Robert Hicks's bestselling historical novels, including *The Widow of the South*. He's well-connected, and can reach out to Leslie Jamison, Elizabeth Crane, Alexander Chee, Eowyn Ivey, and David Wallace for blurbs and support.



**Harper Select  
(HarperCollins)  
Spring 2027  
North American**

Tanya Pell

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## HORROR

# BARBIE JUST WON'T DIE!

### SYNOPSIS

*The Final Girl Support Group* meets Pamela Anderson's *The Last Showgirl* in this feminist slasher that takes on Hollywood's beauty standards as a former scream queen is pursued by a serial killer impersonating the antagonist of her films.

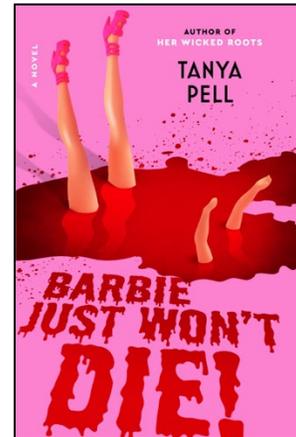
Ageing scream queen Barbra Jacobs desperately wants to break out of the box Hollywood has neatly packaged her in. Cast as the star of the *Mirror* horror franchise films twenty years ago, the breakout role that shaped her career has also destroyed her dreams of being taken seriously as an actress. Now forty, and still seeking the approval of everyone around her, she makes ends meet by signing old photos of herself and doing meet and greets at horror conventions.

So when a producer calls asking her to host *The Monsters We Made*, a hot new horror docuseries, she sees it as a step in the right direction. But when fans begin dying around her—and in ways that mimic the kills in her films—Barb is thrust back into a role she can't seem to walk away from: The Final Girl.

Will she ever break out of the display-box-life she's been imprisoned in, or will Mirror Man end it all in Barbie's Scream House?

### THE AUTHOR

Tanya Pell is a narcoleptic horror author and former high school teacher, who lives in the American South. She is the author of *Her Wicked Roots* (Polish to **Zielona Sowa**), *Cicada*, and several short stories featured in anthologies like *Fever Dreams*, *Mother Knows Best*, and *OBSOLESCENCE*.



Gallery Books  
(Simon & Schuster)  
October 13, 2026  
World English  
Manuscript Available

Tanya Pell

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## GOTHIC

# HER WICKED ROOTS

### SYNOPSIS

A young woman is lured to a lush, rural estate run by an enigmatic botanist, Lady Evangeline, who might be hiding sinister secrets as well as her beguiling daughters.

*The loveliest of flowers are often the most dangerous.*

Cordelia Bircher has not heard from her older brother, Edward, in two excruciating years. Left to work for scraps at her abusive former charity school, Cordi can no longer wait for his rescue. Instead, she looks for *him*.

A lead draws her to the gates of Edenfield, a shadowy, fairytale-like manor surrounded by unsettling, lush gardens. The villagers whisper of ghosts and demons haunting its grounds, but nothing can deter Cordi from finding her beloved brother. She tells half-truths to earn a place as a servant of Lady Evangeline, a reclusive botanist with a very particular set of rules for Edenfield.

When Cordi finds Edward's belongings, she is certain he is hidden away somewhere, and when she finally meets Edenfield's secluded gardeners—Lady Evangeline's daughters—Cordi begins to suspect that one of the beauties may have claimed more than her brother's heart.

But as she grows ever closer to one sister, the other becomes increasingly volatile. Servants fall ill, others wind up missing, and Cordi finds herself changing. Can she find the truth before she, too, falls victim to the Garden?

### PRAISE

"A winding, creeping ivy, a nighttime garden bursting and blossoming with rich texture and dark, sinister bouquets."

—**Cynthia Pelayo**, author of *Vanishing Daughters*

"An intoxicating tale of secrets, desire, hurt and bravery, rooted in the fear of losing the ones we love."

—**Josh Winning**, author of *Heads Will Roll*

### THE AUTHOR

Tanya Pell is a narcoleptic horror author and former high school teacher, who lives in the American South. She is the author of *Cicada*, the forthcoming horror novel *Barbie Just Won't Die!*, and several short stories featured in anthologies like *Fever Dreams*, *Mother Knows Best*, and *OBSOLESCENCE*.



Gallery Books  
(Simon & Schuster)  
October 2025  
World English

Polish to Zielona Sowa

Lori Rader-Day

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**BOOK CLUB / CRIME**

# WRECK YOUR HEART

## SYNOPSIS

When Doll Devine is onstage holding a mic, she can hold the audience in the palm of her hand, dancing at the stamp of her red leather boots. Offstage, she's just...Dahlia.

Unhappy, unemployed and down at heel in Chicago, where her mother dumped her some twenty years earlier and never came back. Her boyfriend just left and took all their money, her landlord threw her out, and things seem like they couldn't get much worse when she presents herself back at McPhee's, the pub where she performs every Wednesday night.

Then her mother suddenly appears, first word from her in two decades, and Dahlia absolutely doesn't want to hear it. And then her mother disappears again, and the distraught young woman who comes looking for her could not be more of a surprise. Together, she and Doll set out to find what could have happened.

When bodies start to turn up, and long-hidden secrets burst into the light, the danger mounts and Doll realizes that her own grievances and unhappiness may not be her biggest problem at all.

## PRAISE

"Bloody brilliant." —**Ann Cleaves**

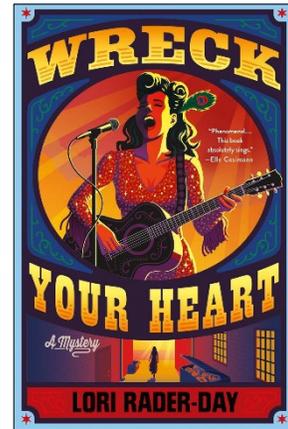
"Lori Rader Day is one of the most creative—and boldest—voices in contemporary crime fiction." —**Sara Paretsky**

"A tale of betrayal, buried secrets, and fractured family ties."  
—**Jess Lourey**, Edgar-nominated author of *The Taken Ones*

"A sharply funny, heartfelt mystery. Its exploration of family secrets will delight fans of Nita Prose". — *Library Journal*, starred review

## THE AUTHOR

Lori Rader-Day is the Edgar Award nominated and Anthony, Agatha, and Mary Higgins Clark Award winning author of *Death at Greenway*, *The Lucky One*, *Under a Dark Sky*, *The Day I Died*, *Little Pretty Things*, and *The Black Hour*. She lives in Chicago, where she teaches creative writing at Northwestern University.



**Minotaur Books  
(Macmillan)  
January 2026  
North American**

Lai Sanders

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**THRILLER / SPECULATIVE**

## THE PLANS I HAVE FOR YOU

### SYNOPSIS

A cutting and brazen thriller about two Asian American women on a quest for revenge after a public shaming pushes them to the limit.

When a conflict with a fellow passenger on the NYC subway spirals into a humiliating breakdown, Shelley Hu's life is over. The incident goes viral, costing Shelley her prestigious Manhattan law firm internship, her spot at Columbia Law, and her plan to build a better life for herself and her mother.

Months later, Shelley is back in Kissimmee, Florida, working the night shift at a kitschy motel near Disney World—the very same job she held in high school. Shelley's life is a black hole until, one night, the beautiful, enigmatic Sophia Moon checks in with her husband and young son. But Sophia's appearance is far from random.

It turns out that, once upon a time, Sophia suffered her own episode of public shaming. Since then, Sophia has rebuilt a new life, and she promises to help Shelley do the same. More importantly, Sophia vows to help Shelley enact revenge on the three people responsible for the worst day of her life with a precise set of plans.

Shelley returns to New York with a new identity and plans that start off well. But when the situation soon spirals out of control, Shelley is forced to reckon with Sophia's unspeakably dark side—though it may be too late.

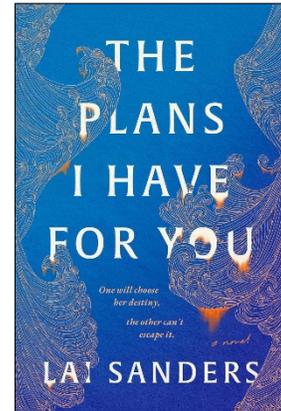
### THE AUTHOR

"Sanders proves adept at building tension, and she offers a meaty exploration of feminine rancor. It's a wild ride." —*Publishers Weekly*

"A chilling novel... Fans of stories about serial killers and their psychological make-up will enjoy this book." —*Library Journal*

### THE AUTHOR

Lai Sanders is an American expat living in Switzerland and works in communications for a nonprofit. *The Plans I have For You* is her debut novel.



**Simon & Schuster**  
**March 17, 2026**  
**World English**  
**Manuscript available**

# BACKLIST

# Betty Cayouette

## ROMANCE

# ONE LAST SHOT

### SYNOPSIS

A supermodel and a photographer with a past marriage pact meet again ten years later on a photoshoot in Cinque Terre, Italy.

From the moment Emerson and Theo met as teenagers, they were inseparable. But just when they finally expressed their feelings to one another, they were torn apart.

Now, supermodel Emerson is nearing her twenty-eighth birthday, and she's tired of looking for love in all the wrong places. When the calendar reminder for the marriage pact she and Theo made as teens goes off on her phone, she realizes this is it—her chance to rekindle the only romance that ever really made sense. Emerson convinces her grumpy agent to book her as the face of the fashion campaign that Theo, now a fashion photographer, is shooting. The good news: the campaign is being shot in ridiculously romantic Cinque Terre, Italy. The bad news? Theo might not be as happy to see her as she'd hoped.

The two embark on a four-day campaign that tests not only their feelings, but their ability to keep their hands off one another. But as roadblock after roadblock keeps them apart, Emerson starts to wonder: will this photoshoot be the key to getting one last shot at love, or will it be a final goodbye?

### PRAISE

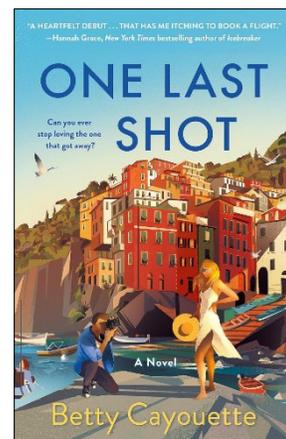
"Cayouette makes a memorable debut with a second-chance love story that is equal parts heart-wrenching and inspiring." — **Publishers Weekly**

"Bayouette crafts an engaging story. The emotional aspects of the romance take center stage." — **Library Journal, starred review**

"A sweet and heartfelt debut romance that has me itching to book a flight to Italy." — **Hannah Grace**, author of *Icebreaker*

### THE AUTHOR

Betty Cayouette is an author, viral video content creator and cinematographer. She created @bettysbooklist, the viral TikTok/Instagram account which is one of the top book recommendation accounts in the world. *One Last Shot* is her debut novel.



**St. Martin's Griffin  
(Macmillan)**

**May 2024  
North American**

Croatian to **Znanje**;  
German to **Blanvalet**;  
Bulgarian to **Ciela**; UK to  
**Century**; Polish to **Luna**;  
Serbian to **Vulkan**; Russian  
to **Clever**; Portuguese to  
**Bertrand**; Romanian to  
**Librex**

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Brendan Slocumb

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## CRIME

# THE DARK MAESTRO

### SYNOPSIS

A musician at the peak of his career is forced into entering the witness protection program—and turns to music to get his life back.

Curtis Wilson grew up in the Southeast D.C. projects with a drug dealer for a father. But through determination and talent, and the loving support of his father's girlfriend Larissa, Curtis has clawed his way out of poverty—he's now a cello prodigy and a legend in the classical music world. After serving time in prison, his father Zippy has made a career for himself as an accountant for an investment firm.

And then, suddenly, Curtis' life disintegrates. Zippy's employer emerges to be an international cartel trafficking human organs. When Zippy provides evidence to the F.B.I. implicating his old bosses, the family – Curtis included – must enter the witness protection program. Curtis must give up the very thing he loves most: sharing his extraordinary musical talents with the world.

When Zippy's bosses prove too elusive for law enforcement to convict them, Curtis, Zippy, and Larissa realize that their only chance of survival is to take on the cartel themselves. If they survive, Curtis will get the chance to perform on stage again, but it will be under a new name: the Dark Maestro.

### PRAISE

"A virtuosic thriller. . . . This novel should catapult Slocumb into the upper echelon of thriller authors."—*Kirkus*, starred review

"In this perfectly crafted thriller, Slocumb acts as the master conductor, bringing together a twisty plot and gorgeously wrought characters."  
—*The Boston Globe*

"Slocumb's gripping storytelling hits all the right notes, making this a standout performance."—*Oprah Daily*

### THE AUTHOR

Brandan Slocumb is the author of *The Violin Conspiracy* and *Symphony of Secrets*. He holds a degree in music education (with concentrations in violin and viola) from the University of North Carolina. For more than twenty years he has been a public and private school music educator and has performed with orchestras throughout northern Virginia, Maryland, and Washington, DC.



Doubleday  
(Penguin Random House)  
May 2025  
North American