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Aftershock

Alison Taylor

For readers of Gail Honeyman and Maria Semple comes the compulsively readable upmarket book club debut **AFTERSHOCK** by Alison Taylor.

Meet Jules, Chloe's middle-aged mother, whose history of chronic pain turns her into an opiate addict in danger of losing her job and the life she has built for herself, and Chloe, her frustrated daughter, a millennial lesbian, clearly not getting the support she needs as she navigates the tough waters of early adult life. Connected by trauma, both mother and daughter are unable to address the emotional impact and secrets surrounding the tragic

death of a baby sister, years prior.

Chloe was six when the baby died. Nightmares haunt her still. After Chloe drops out of university to travel for a year, Jules's Oxy dependency quickly becomes problematic. We follow their parallel journeys: Jules struggles to regain control of her life, and to come to terms with the emotional pain that has so long manifested itself in her body. Chloe, after a rocky visit with her estranged father and his new family in New Zealand, resolves to go off the map, hoping it will help her understand her place in the world.

When Jules suddenly can't find her daughter, it is all too familiar. Shared trauma has driven them a world apart, but they will need to find each other again to begin to heal.

ALISON TAYLOR is a writer, stand-up comic and video artist whose work has screened internationally. She has an MFA in film from York University and is a graduate of the Humber School for Writers. She has previously published in Exile Literary Quarterly and is currently working on her next novel, in which three estranged siblings are forced to reunite after their mother suffers a debilitating stroke. Originally from Hamilton, Ontario, Alison currently splits her time between Toronto, where she works as a television editor, and Fredericton, where her partner lives with their two cats.

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Asking for a Friend

Kerry Clare

Every time Jess got pregnant, Clara would be the first to know...

A smart, funny and heartbreaking take on women's relationships by an author whose first novel, the *Toronto Star* declared, "heralds the arrival of a fantastic, fun new novelist on the Canadian scene."

A chance encounter one Saturday night in a university residence sparks the beginning of a friendship between two women that might turn out to be the most passionate and enduring relationship of both their lives. But their friendship is never straightforward, and over the decades that follow, Jess and Clara grow together and grow apart, and back again, their very different experiences of motherhood complicating their connection, along with their relationships with their spouses, and the demands of their professional lives.

With a focus on female friendship as razor-sharp as Rumaan Alam's *Rich and Pretty*, and a sweep recalling Meg Wolitzer's *The Female Persuasion*, ASKING FOR A FRIEND is a novel about the compromises true friendship demands, and the difficulties of connection between people whose lives take on different trajectories.

KERRY CLARE is a National Magazine Award-nominated writer, author of *Mitzi Bytes*—which HELLO Canada called "an entertaining and insightful read"—and editor of *The M Word: Conversations About Motherhood*. Most recently, her writing has appeared in *The Walrus*, *Today's Parent*, and *The New Quarterly*. She edits the Canadian books website, *49thShelf.com*, and writes about books and reading on her own popular blog, *Pickle Me This*.

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Bad Weather

Krista Foss

BAD WEATHER is a riveting portrait of sisters and daughters navigating the murky tensions of physics and belief, memory and family bonds.

When a yellow-eyed dog is left on her doorstep and a strange creature appears under the trees outside her classroom, middle-aged Milwaukee physics teacher Elin Frederiksen has to reconcile her past, present and future or lose her mind, and job, trying.

As she organizes a party for Mette, her soon-to-visit songwriter sister, Elin grapples with the recent death of her brother, her formidable Danish mother's new frailty and the imminent departure of an adored 18-year-old daughter. And then there are those uncomfortable memories triggered by her designer father's most admired modernist chair. Instead of a celebration, Mette's arrival underscores the sisters' brokenness, and forces Elin to confront the price paid for loving those who don't believe your story.

KRISTA FOSS' short fiction has appeared in Granta and has twice been a finalist for the Journey Prize. Her essay writing won the PRISM International creative non-fiction contest in 2016, has been featured in Best Canadian Essays and nominated for a National Magazine Award. Her first novel, Smoke River, published by McClelland & Stewart (2014), won the Hamilton Literary Award. She lives in Hamilton, Ontario.

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Beautiful Dreamers

Ivy Knight

If Gabrielle Hamilton's *Blood, Bones & Butter* and Jackie Collins *Hollywood Wives* had a baby.

The Chef—he's just a line cook now but he has dreams so much bigger than this steakhouse kitchen. He aims for celebrity chefdom of the highest level.

The Food Writer—she's just a server with dreams of making it big in the notoriously tough world of food writing. Visions of James Beard Awards dance in her head.

The Restaurateur—she hasn't been cooking long but already has plans to turn this male dominated industry on its head. She dreams of opening her own restaurant and subverting the patriarchy from within.

BEAUTIFUL DREAMERS follows the lives of three young dreamers making their way through the incredibly glamorous and notoriously sleazy world where fine dining and celebrity chefs collide. Caught up amongst the spinning plates of haute cuisine and bright lights of Manhattan's tony restaurant scene, where the stakes are high and the spoils are only for those brazen and bold enough to claim them.

IVY KNIGHT spent ten years cooking professionally before leaving restaurant kitchens to write full time. Her first big interview was Jacques Pepin, her second was Calvin Trillin—those two giants provided the best learning curve for breaking into the food writing business and have served her well thus far in a career spent interviewing everyone from Thomas Keller to Ruth Reichl. She's had lunch with Anthony Bourdain (burgers), brunch with David Chang (charcuterie) and dinner with René Redzepi (fajitas). Her work has been mentioned in The New York Times and The New Yorker. She writes regularly for Playboy, VICE/Munchies and The Globe and Mail.

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The Centaur's Wife

Amanda Leduc

In the tradition of *Station Eleven*, *The Leftovers* and *Neverwhere*, comes a dark and apocalyptic fairy tale about despair and redemption, desire and loss, and magic both seen and unseen.

The world has ended, and there is no magic in the ground anymore.

Three years ago, a rain of asteroids hit the planet—obliterating satellites, flattening whole countries.

The centaurs, who were born from magic and grief but were myth for so long, have come down from the mountain in the wake of the asteroids and are trying to help rebuild the nearby cities. The centaurs hear voices in the wind and feel rumblings in the ground that the humans cannot; they know that something else is coming. As grief and sickness ravage the city below them, the centaurs feel dread mount and try their best to help.

Then a madness unleashes itself into the air one April day—The centaurs intervene and rescue a pregnant Heather, a young woman frustrated by her shattered life.

But when a ragtag family with a mysterious connection to the centaurs comes traveling up the mountain, offering proof that others are alive and bringing their own stories of nature run amok, even Heather begins to see that the world is turning against them in ways that no one could expect. And when war erupts on the mountain and threatens them all, it is Heather and her newborn son who must find a way forward, through forbidden love and thwarted desire and the echoes of a magic almost gone, and teach the others to navigate a world that is dying and being reborn all at once.

AMANDA LEDUC's stories and essays have appeared in publications across Canada, the U.S., the U.K., and Australia, including *The Rumpus*, *The Butter*, *ELLE Canada*, and many others. She has been shortlisted for numerous awards, including the 2015 *StoryQuarterly Fiction Prize*, the *CBC Writes Fiction and Creative Nonfiction Prizes*, and the *UK Daily Mail First Novel Award*. Her first novel, *The Miracles of Ordinary Men*, was published in 2013 by Toronto's *ECW Press*.

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Conduct

Miranda Hill

Set between 1890 and the 1960s against the backdrops of Pittsburgh, the world's factory and Muskoka, where the rich come to play, CONDUCT is a multi-generational novel that considers how our lives are shaped by the stories we select to tell and the secrets we try to keep.

It all begins in 1890. Lady Ada and Evelyn are traveling by train toward Pittsburgh and two very different futures, one affluent, the other quite the opposite. Ada is reluctantly making a journey toward a marriage to a man she has never met (arranged by her once-respected British family); Evelyn is on her way to work as a domestic servant in one of the city's finer houses. This chance meeting between Ada and Evelyn, and the envy it triggers when they impulsively switch identities, is the beginning of a recurring connection, weaving together their contrasting lives—from the drawing rooms of upper class Pittsburgh homes, to its factories and slums, and then over the border to the golden age of the grand hotels of Muskoka, the destination of a new and glamorous set of “pleasure seekers”—and ultimately impacting their families over several decades of shifting fortunes and remarkable circumstances.

With her proven eye for insight into human relationships, in CONDUCT, Miranda Hill considers the ties between toil and leisure, the captains of industry and the working class, disease and health, and the elements that determine our place in the world, whether chance or choice.

With the historical sweep of Mordecai Richler's *Solomon Gursky Was Here* and the vibrant characters as in Andrea Levy's *Small Island* or Michael Chabon's *Kavalier and Clay*, CONDUCT will appeal to the quality lover and book club reader in us all.

Winner of Canada's most prestigious short story prize, the Writers Trust/McClelland & Stewart Journey Prize, MIRANDA HILL's stories have appeared in *The Globe and Mail*, *Reader's Digest*, *The New Quarterly* among others. Her debut collection *Sleeping Funny*, published in 2012, was one of the bestselling and well-reviewed collections of the year. Hill is also the founder and executive director of the Canadian literary charity *Project Bookmark Canada*. She lives, writes and works in Hamilton, Ontario. CONDUCT is her debut novel.

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Daughters of Silence

Rebecca Fisseha

A **début** novel that is psychologically astute, and filled with metaphor, wisdom, and the vibrant colours of Ethiopian life, **DAUGHTERS OF SILENCE** will satisfy readers who loved *Fugitive Pieces* and *A Fine Balance*.

First-person narrator Dessie is a flight attendant, who, shortly after her mother's death in Canada, finds herself stranded in her birth place, Ethiopia, due to the ash and smoke from the volcano in Iceland that closed the skies to air travel in 2010. Duty commands her to pay her respects to her grandfather, Shaleka, as soon as she arrives, but Dessie's conflicted past stands in her way. The family holds multiple secrets, and just as the volcano's eruption disordered Dessie's work life, so does her mother's death cause cataclysmic disruptions in the fine balance of self-deceptions, lies, and false histories that characterize the relationships among Dessie's family members. From the trauma of Italy's invasion to the shame of unwed motherhood, and abuse that meets with silence, Dessie pieces together the mystery of her mother's life, and through that process, comes to terms with her own.

REBECCA FISSEHA's short fiction has appeared in many literary journals, including *Room Magazine*, *Joyland Magazine*, *The Rusty Toque*, and is upcoming in the Addis Ababa edition of *Akashic Books' Noir series*. Her play, *wise.woman* was produced by *b current* in Toronto in 2009.

Rebecca holds a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Theatre and a Master's Degree in Communications and Culture from York University; a Diploma in Writing for Film and Television from the Vancouver Film School; and a Certificate in Creative Writing from the Humber School for Writers. Rebecca Fisseha was raised in Ethiopia, Austria, and Switzerland; and has been based in Toronto since 1998. www.rebeccafisseha.com

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The Dead Celebrities Club

Susan Swan

For fans of *The Wolf of Wall Street* and *The Sellout* by Paul Beatty comes Swan's latest novel **THE DEAD CELEBRITIES CLUB**, a satirical gem about the ultimate con man who might just fall into the trap of his own con.

From multiple prize finalist and internationally bestselling author Susan Swan, whose fiction has been published in fifteen countries and translated into eight languages, comes **THE DEAD CELEBRITIES CLUB** a timely novel filled with action and satire featuring the hedge fund whale, Dale Paul, a witty, self-absorbed rogue and raconteur. Who may or may not be an unreliable narrator (okay, he's unreliable).

However, charm and childhood connections to billionaire media personality Earl Lindquist—a candidate for the American presidency, touting divisive new policies—aren't enough to stop Dale Paul from being sent to an upstate New York white collar jail on multiple counts of fraud for gambling away US military pensions.

Promising himself to earn back his son's previously gambled inheritance (the hedge fund, remember?) Dale Paul dreams up an illegal lottery for his fellow inmates based on the death of old and frail celebrities called 'The Dead Celebrities Club'. And as an added perk, he manages to take revenge on old friends like Earl who have abandoned him while he's in the slammer.

Disgraced and for once in his life, penniless, Dale Paul's relationships with his family deteriorate while he works on his scheme to make himself rich again.

Win or lose, Dale Paul goes through a sea change that may (or may not) make a new man of him. But will the enterprising gambler get caught in his own con?

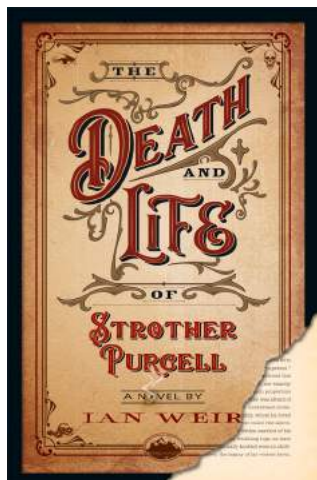
SUSAN SWAN's critically acclaimed fiction has been published in fifteen countries and translated into eight languages. Rights for a television series based on Swan's first novel The Biggest Modern Woman of the World have recently been sold to Temple Productions, whose projects include the TV series Orphan Black. Nominated for the Governor General's Literary Award and Books in Canada's first novel award, The Biggest Modern Woman of the World tells the life story of a giantess who exhibited with P.T. Barnum. Swan's last novel, The Western Light published in 2012 is a prequel to The Wives of Bath, her bestselling gothic novel about a murder in a girls' school. A finalist for the Guardian Fiction Prize and the Trillium Book Award, The Wives of Bath was made into the feature film Lost and Delirious, shown in 32 countries. A previous novel What Casanova Told Me was a finalist for the Commonwealth Writers' Prize; it was named a top book of the year by The Globe and Mail and published by Knopf, Canada, Bloomsbury U.S. and in Spain, Russia, Poland, Serbia and Portugal. Swan's other novels include The Last of the Golden Girls, published in Canada and the U.S., and Stupid Boys are Good to Relax With. Swan lives in Toronto. She was awarded York University's Robarts Chair in Canadian Studies in 2000.

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The Death and Life of Strother Purcell

Ian Weir

For readers of Ron Rash, Cormac McCarthy and fans of the HBO hit series *Deadwood* comes **THE DEATH AND LIFE OF STROTHER PURCELL** a riveting frontier Western epic.

SAN FRANCISCO, 1892. The old Gold Rush capital is rollicking toward the twentieth century. Young Will Hearst is creating a modern media empire. Wyatt Earp, the retired but not-yet-legendary frontier lawman, is trying to reinvent himself—and get rich—as a Bay Area property developer. And Barry Weaver, a hack writer of frontier dime-novels, ends up on a self-destructive spree and a night in the drunk tank where he encounters a homeless one-eyed derelict who turns out to be the fabled Strother Purcell—or what remains of him. Weaver sees his opportunity. He will write this story. All it requires is a final act—a true-life climax that will combine redemption and tragedy on a scale commensurate with Purcell's stature, not to mention Weaver's narrative aspirations.

What unfolds is an archetypal saga of obsession, treachery, lost love, murder and revenge. A deadpan revisionist Western, refracted through the lens of a Southern Gothic revenge tragedy, **THE DEATH AND LIFE OF STROTHER PURCELL** is a novel about the power of the past...and the lengths we'll go in order to invent it..



IAN WEIR is a screenwriter, playwright and novelist. His debut novel *Daniel O'Thunder*, published in 2009, was a finalist for four awards: the Commonwealth Writers' Prize Best First Book Award, the Amazon.ca First Novel Award, the Ethel Wilson Fiction Prize and the Canadian Authors Association's Award for Fiction. Among his extensive television credits, he was the writer and executive producer of the acclaimed crime thriller *Dragon Boys*, a CBC miniseries that first aired in 2007. His stage plays have been produced across Canada and in the U.S. and U.K., and he is the author of ten radio dramas. He has won two Geminis, four Leos, a Jessie and the Writers Guild of Canada Canadian Screenwriting Award. His last novel, *Will Starling*, was longlisted for the Dublin IMPAC and published in Canada and the U.S.

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Elemental

Catherine Bush

Introducing **ELEMENTAL**, an urgently compelling and provocatively timely new novel that weaves climate change, love, family and Shakespeare's *The Tempest* onto a fictionalized version of Fogo Island, off the coast of Newfoundland, where the storm that opens the novel whips up enough force to touch lives and rip small houses apart.

The time is now or an alternate near now, the world close to being our own. After speaking out about the extremities of arctic melting, prominent climate change scientist Michael Wells finds himself set upon by climate change deniers and ousted from his university position in the U.S. His life overturned, he flees with his young daughter to Flame Island, a remote island in the North Atlantic where, as locals say, "The wind decides everything."

Years later, with a massive hurricane churning up the North American east coast, he lures three men to the island with the promise of a climate engineering experiment that may help lower planetary temperatures: a flamboyant airline magnate interested in supporting such a project through his tech innovation fund; the magnate's corporate-world brother; and a notorious climate-change denier.

The novel, which takes place over thirty-six hours, alternately follows the scientist's daughter, nineteen-year-old Miranda Wells, and Caleb Borders, a local youth who works for the scientist and whose life has become inextricably and painfully entangled with that of Wells and his daughter.

Ultimately the novel is Miranda's account of how her life alters, and how life and weather and the world around us can sometimes change so slowly that we barely notice and sometimes so fast and radically that we barely know what has happened to us.

Change, as Miranda says, is always clearest after it happens.

One of Canada's most inventive and highly regarded novelists, **CATHERINE BUSH** is the author of four novels. Her work has been critically acclaimed, published internationally and shortlisted for literary awards. *Accusation* (Goose Lane Editions, 2013) was one of NOW magazine's Best Ten Books of 2013, an Amazon.ca Best Book and a Canada Reads Top 40 pick. Her first novel, *Minus Time* (Hyperion in the U.S., HarperCollins Canada, *Serpent's Tail* in the U.K., 1993), was shortlisted for the Books in Canada/SmithBooks First Novel Award and the City of Toronto Book Award. Her second novel, *The Rules of Engagement* (FSG in the U.S., HarperCollins Canada, etc., 2000) was a national bestseller and chosen as a New York Times Notable Book and as a Best Book of the Year by The Globe and Mail in Canada and by the LA Times in the U.S. Her third novel, *Claire's Head* (McClelland and Stewart, 2004), was shortlisted for Ontario's Trillium Award and was a Globe and Mail Best Book of the Year. She has been a repeat TRACS artist-in-residence in Tilting, on Fogo Island. She is an Associate Professor and Coordinator of the Creative Writing MFA at the University of Guelph. She can be found at www.catherinebush.com

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The Hunter and the Old Woman

Pamela Korgemagi

Calling to mind *The Old Man and the Sea* by Ernest Hemingway and *The Bear* by William Faulkner and for readers of *Life of Pi* by Yann Martel, comes **THE HUNTER AND THE OLD WOMAN**, which follows a female cougar as she attempts the most remarkable of feats: survival in the forest.

A fantastic vision of the hidden life of a mountain lion, describing the everyday episodes of an extraordinary life. The Cougar hunts, she finds a lover, raises her brood, survives a vengeful stalker, and navigates the perils of encountering men in the forest.

Joseph Brandt has heard tales of the Old Woman since he was born, the legendary mountain lion who stalks the night forest, tormenting men in their waking life and into their dreams. As Joseph grows older his obsession with the Old Woman deepens until finally he steps into the forest to seek her out.

An existential work that examines the links between one creature and the creatures its life intersects with, **THE HUNTER AND THE OLD WOMAN** is told with immense patience and its unfolding power keeps the reader locked to it, sometimes in disbelief.

After graduating from York University's creative writing program PAMELA KORGEMAGI moved to Toronto where she has worked at various jobs throughout the city including being a game tester at a video game studio, receptionist at an industrial engine repair site, and human money counter in a vault. THE HUNTER AND THE OLD WOMAN is her first novel. She is at work on her next novel.

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Just Pervs

Jess Taylor

With **JUST PERVS**, her second collection of short stories, Jess joins a chorus of female voices—Mary Gaitskill (*Bad Behaviour*), Maggie Nelson (*The Argonauts*), Chris Kraus (*I Love Dick*), and Naja Marie Aidt (*Baboon*)—who speak honestly and openly about sex and women’s quests for fuller and richer experiences.

With an arrestingly frank literary voice and plenty of sly humour, Jess Taylor explores the strange oppression and illumination that desire can create, the bewilderment of adolescence, the barriers to intimacy we discover within ourselves and the ones imposed on us, all while championing expressions of female sexuality in their many forms. In “Tight ‘n Bright,” a twenty-something woman goes home to have sex with a guy she met on an afternoon lake cruise, only to realize that he disgusts her, but not as much as her own behaviour does. In “The Puberty Drawer,” friends gleefully share their innocent yearnings, confusion, and wonderment at the power of sexual drive. In “Cavern” a married couple begin to see a star-filled black hole above their bed that grows larger as they become increasingly estranged. In the title story, four girlfriends grow up, drift apart, and pine for each other in isolated silence, until one of them is murdered.

JESS TAYLOR is a Toronto writer and poet. She founded *The Emerging Writers Reading Series* in 2012. *Pauls*, her first collection of stories, was published by *BookThug* in 2015. The title story from the collection, “Paul”, received the 2013 *Gold Fiction National Magazine Award*. Jess has also released two chapbooks of poetry, *And Then Everyone: Poems of the West End* (*Picture Window Press*, 2014) and *Never Stop* (*Anstruther Press*, 2014). Jess is currently at work on a novel and the continuation of her life poem, *Never Stop*. She lives in Toronto.

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Praise for *Pauls*:

“A magical and penetrating collection of strange, mundane, traumatized and ecstatic people who are all named Paul. Its simple sentences are little atoms of wonder.”

—Heather O’Neill, author of *The Lonely Hearts Hotel*

“Reading a Jess Taylor story is like planting a magic bean and watching, with a flashlight, as it grows overnight into something you’ve never seen before. But then you climb up the stalk of the story and look around and realize there is no magic at all, at least, nothing un-real. These are true stories, illuminated with the wisdom of Flannery O’Connor and the wild leaping logic of Hans Christian Andersen.”

—Michael Winter, author of *Minister Without Portfolio*

“Taylor’s début collection is a cycle of bristlingly good stories that all feature at least one character named Paul. It’s an exciting thing to behold; one gets the sense of discovering in her authentic, compelling voice a master-in-waiting, like a young Alice Munro.”

—*National Post*

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Klondike Kalahari

Lulu Keating

From the Kalahari to the Klondike, Acacia is about to have her world turned upside down as she rebels against her father's wishes and sets off in an impromptu road trip across the Yukon in search of freedom and independence.

Acacia, a young Zimbabwean, loves working with the cattle on her father Stanley's ranch on the high veld. Acacia's mother has just died when her father informs her that she's betrothed to marry a man from the village, Gilbert. Except Gilbert is no longer in Zimbabwe, he has moved for work to Whitehorse, in the Yukon, and Acacia must move there to marry him.

Fresh off the plane, Acacia joins Gilbert in his new home, where she discovers his big secret: Gilbert has a girlfriend in Whitehorse and she's 9 months pregnant. Acacia phones her father and explains the situation. She won't marry Gilbert and expects her father to fly her home. But Stanley insists she stay and fulfill the marriage arrangement. Outraged by his refusal to fly her home, Acacia realizes she'll have to earn the airfare home herself. When she tries to run away, Gilbert finds her and tries to pull her into his car. They're in the middle of the highway when a truck pulls over to help her. This is how Acacia meets Hussy, a rough and tumble woman on the run from the police, who works as a trapper and migrant picker, driving a stolen truck, heading further north to find work. Hussy offers Acacia a ride and the unlikely pair embark on a road trip, destination unknown.

Eventually, after some drunk driving and minor road accidents, Acacia and Hussy talk their way into jobs in a remote mushroom-picking camp, Hussy as a picker and Acacia as the cook. Acacia is shocked by the contrast between the orderly ranch she left behind, and the crude, filthy campers. The First Nations boss, Darwin, teaches Acacia to catch and cook local game. She learns how to survive in the wilderness. But Gilbert is still trailing her. When he finally finds her, he warns Acacia that her father will be arriving soon. Stanley will force them to marry.

Acacia realizes that she can avoid marrying by losing her virginity and so she seduces Darwin. When Stanley arrives and learns that Acacia is no longer a virgin, he disowns her and happily Acacia decides to stay on in the north and determine the future for herself.

LULU KEATING has been writing for over 35 years. As a filmmaker, she has written eight feature length screenplays (two have been produced) and numerous short fiction scripts. For several years, Keating had a regular column for *What's Up Yukon*, featuring profiles of colourful characters and visitors to her home town, Dawson City Yukon. She has also had work published in *The Globe and Mail*, *the Journal of Canadian Studies*, *Geist Magazine* and *Yukon: North of Ordinary*.

The middle child of eleven, Keating was born and raised in Antigonish Nova Scotia. Her family was the focus of her award-winning animated film, *The Moody Brood*, co-produced with CBC Television. As a university student, Keating volunteered in the Congo Zaire. This pivotal experience inspired the movie she wrote and directed, *The Middy Sun*. While she continues to make at least one film a year, Keating is currently adapting *Klondike Kalahari*, her screenplay, into a novel with the same name.

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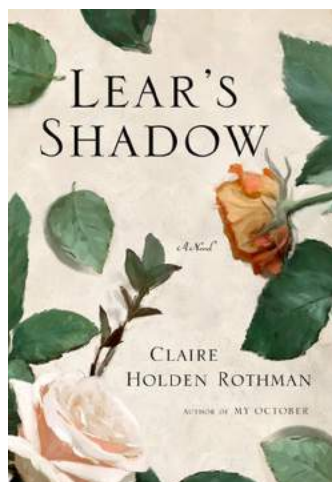
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Lear's Shadow

Claire Holden Rothman

For readers of Ann Patchett, Governor General's Award finalist and twice longlisted Scotiabank Giller Prize author Claire Holden Rothman's *LEAR'S SHADOW* tells the mesmerizing story of Beatrice Rose who, after losing her career and the love of her life, has lost her way and finds herself stuck caring for her aging father only to discover the fascinating world of an urban Shakespeare troupe which unveils new meanings, a new love, and a new life.

A father-daughter story at its heart with an ode to Shakespeare's *King Lear* woven throughout, this is a mesmerizing story about a woman's mid-life crisis.

Summer 2012. Beatrice Rose, the black sheep of a successful Montreal family, returns to her childhood home in the rich enclave of Westmount to look after her father, a once-powerful businessman now lapsing into senility. Nearing forty, Bea is broke, childless, alone. When she's offered a job as an assistant stage manager with a local Shakespeare-in-the-park troupe, she seizes the opportunity despite her utter lack of theatre experience. The troupe is presenting *King Lear* outdoors. As Bea's father slips into dementia, she spends her evenings in the mosquito-filled shadows of the city's parks, watching another old man unravel onstage, his decline immortalized by Shakespeare's verse.

Phil Grand, the actor playing Lear, is a man of notorious wantonness. Yet Bea feels drawn to him, despite (or is it because of?) his resemblances to her father. Meanwhile, Artie White, the troupe's artistic director, who is also playing Lear's Fool, seems bent on finding fault with everything Bea does, whether she's awkwardly fending off Phil's advances or struggling, in the early weeks of production, to meet the many requirements of her job.

LEAR'S SHADOW is the story of an adult daughter facing the decline of her aged father into a second childhood. It's an examination of conventional notions of success and failure, and the damages wrought by applying such measures of human worth. It's a meditation on the nature and significance of the shadow—in every sense of that word. There is a moment in *King Lear* when the old monarch, aware of how vulnerable and diminished he has become, asks, "Who is it that can tell me who I am?" The Fool answers: "Lear's shadow."



CLAIRE HOLDEN ROTHMAN is the author of two story collections and the novels *My October*, a finalist for the the 2014 Governor General's Award in fiction and longlisted for the Scotiabank Giller Prize, and *The Heart Specialist*, also longlisted for a Giller, and published in six countries. Her translation of Canada's first novel, *L'influence d'un livre (The Influence of a Book)* by Philippe - Ignace - François Aubert de Gaspé, won the John Glassco Translation Prize. She lives in Montreal with playwright Arthur Holden.

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Like Rum-Drunk Angels

Tyler Enfield

LIKE RUM-DRUNK ANGELS is Tyler Enfield's dazzling sophomore novel, wide in scope and broad in its imagination. This brilliant and inventive tale revolves around Francis Blackstone, a lovestruck youth in search of the fortune that will allow him to marry the girl of his dreams. With few prospects for immediate wealth in sight, Francis joins forces with the notorious gunslinger, Bob Temple. Together they form The Blackstone Temple Gang, an infamous group of gentleman train robbers who become a country-wide media sensation.

Set in the Wild West, this is an offbeat and slightly magical literary work. Filled with big skies, daring shoot-outs, and blazing dialogue, it is an entirely original retelling of the Aladdin story as an American western—a rich combination of classic love story, quest novel, and a tribute to boyhood enthusiasm. While not as esoteric as Gary Barwin's *Yiddish for Pirates*, it portrays an equally unique and limitless landscape. Think *Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid* and Patrick DeWitt's *The Sisters Brothers* crossed with *The Arabian Nights*.

TYLER ENFIELD is an Edmonton-based writer and photographer. He is the author of four novels, including *Madder Carmine* (Great Plains Publications, 2015), which was winner of the 2016 High Plains Book Award, a finalist for the Robert Kroetsch City of Edmonton Prize, and a nominee for the Alberta Readers Choice Award. His film, *Invisible World* (National Film Board of Canada, 2017) was co-written with Madeleine Thien, and was the winner of three Alberta Screen Awards. Other awards include ForeWord Reviews Book of the Year, New Brunswick Literary Prize for Fiction, and the Moonbeam award. You can learn more about him at TylerEnfield.com.

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Winner of the 2016 High Plains Book Award, finalist for the Robert Kroetsch City of Edmonton Prize, and nominated for the Alberta Readers Choice Award.

“*Madder Carmine* is a masterpiece... Enfield's fever dream of a classical quest is dizzying, poetic and original... a major work that deserves to be celebrated.”
—High Plains Book Award judges

“Brilliant... mind-bending... in the same frenetic vein as Patrick DeWitt's genre-bashing novels, Tyler Enfield's *Madder Carmine* is a step of above, and vividly beyond.”

—Thomas Trofimuk, author of *Waiting for Columbus*

“Original and gripping right up to the final page...”
—Publishers Weekly

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Limerence

Jowita Bydlowska

Calling to mind *The Days of Abandonment* by Elena Ferrante and *A Separation* by Katie Kitamura comes bestselling author Jowita Bydlowska's new novel, **LIMERENCE**, a story exploring sexual obsession.



Josephine is obsessed. Or possessed—by unrequited love for a younger man who doesn't promise anything but who gives her a taste of intimacy that is enough to make her almost lose her mind. Josephine, who's in her mid-30s, works for a traveling agency (offering Unusual Tours to places that are off-the-beaten-path), distracting herself from her obsession with her new work assignment—researching the haunted Croatian island of Tajni Otok. She is used to ghosts, having always felt a certain unearthly Presence in her mother's house. Living with her overbearing mother suffering from dementia, Josephine wonders if she, too, is becoming crazy, if the madness was inherited. Most of her days are spent trying not to think about Sebastian, who is sexually violent—although not that great in bed—and immature. Her older lover, Max—a former partner—serves as an outlet for her sexual frustrations: she demands him to be violent. Josephine thinks about sex a lot—she is always aware of men's reaction to her, including her boring unattractive boss. Early on, in her obsession, Josephine learns about limerence—"a state of mind which results from a romantic attraction to another person and typically includes obsessive thoughts and fantasies and a desire to form or maintain a relationship with the object of love and have one's feelings reciprocated." (Not included in the DSM but possibly on its way to be so.)

To remove herself from her complicated situation, Josephine travels to Croatia to see the island for herself. In Tajni Otok, she is greeted by the ghost of Tazio whom she recognizes as the Presence visiting her earlier in her mother's house. She takes a boat to Tajni Otok and explores the abandoned buildings of the former asylum, with Tazio. At one point, Tazio tells her his own story of tragic love to a woman who herself has suffered once from limerence. Josephine and Tazio fuck on the roof of the abandoned asylum building and Josephine is relieved of her possession.

On her return, Josephine breaks things off with her older lover, Max, and makes a decision to move out of her mother's house. She starts to research a new place, a village in Ukraine, known for its troubling suicide rates. Writing her proposal in a coffee shop, she spots a man who looks a lot like Sebastian, her aloof younger lover. She is unsure if it's him, but she doesn't approach him. She no longer cares. She leaves the coffee shop excited for her new life and her travel.

JOWITA BYDLOWSKA was born in Warsaw, Poland and moved to Canada as a teenager. She has published two books: a bestselling memoir, *Drunk Mom* (2013), and a bestselling novel, *GUY* (2016). She's had more than 20 short stories published in various magazines and journals and most recently, her story "Funny Hat" was chosen for *Best Canadian Short Stories 2017*. As a journalist she mainly writes about culture, social issues and mental health and has been published in many national and international publications. Jowita is also an accomplished photographer. Jowitabydlowska.com

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Loose Threads

Sheila Hamilton

Inspired by the thought that "we need another Bridges of Madison County" this novel explores the uncertainty of personal happiness and the risks and rewards that a thirty-something woman endures when she plots her disappearance into a remote corner of the Pacific Northwest to find it.

Up and coming fashion designer Scarlett Anne Winston faces a heartbreaking loss that wakes her up to the sense that she's trapped, living a lifestyle she no longer wants. But having married into one of New York's most powerful families, leaving it isn't so simple.

Scarlett decides the only way to create a new life for herself is to disappear from her old one, and so she carefully plots her desertion to a Pacific Northwest forest on the other side of the country. Her vanishment sets off a wave of speculation and frenzy and triggers a year long search by her estranged husband's family who need to protect their name and image.

Meanwhile, Scarlett finds unlikely alliances with a pregnant teenager, a feminist bike rider, and a mythical guardian who help her understand that while she was certain she'd find safety—and her self—going it alone, it is the bonds of true kinship that lead her to a path of real recovery and sustainable happiness.

SHEILA HAMILTON is a five-time Emmy award winning journalist, public speaker, and author. Her moving non-fiction narrative title, All the Things We Never Knew, which chronicled Hamilton's late husband's descent into mental illness, was awarded Independent Publishing's Gold Award, was a Powell's Staff Top Ten Book pick and praised as "Highly recommended" by Library Journal.

Sheila's background is as an investigative journalist for ABC stations KTVX in Salt Lake City and KATU in Portland, Oregon. She is a frequent speaker and host of the podcast, SheilaHamilton.com and was voted Portland's favorite radio personality as the host of Kink.fm.

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Not The Plan

Gia de Cadenet

Passion and politics make sexy bedfellows in NOT THE PLAN, a debut contemporary romance by Gia de Cadenet.

Nothing will distract Chief of Staff Isadora Maris from her career. She is so close to her dream of working in Washington, D.C. All she needs to do is run yet another drama-free legislative session and make her boss the highest-ranking Senator of the California State Legislature.

Falling for a rival legislative aide is exactly the type of drama she needs to avoid. Isadora had seen how love derailed her mother's life and left her a bitter, narcissistic shell. No way will Isadora let a man do that to her. Even if he has gorgeous green eyes, broad shoulders and a dimple she could drown in...

A relationship with him could destroy her reputation and put an end to her dreams. But...maybe she could flirt. Just a little.

Move to California – check

Find a job – check

Place to live – check

Get a life... Karim Sarda hasn't quite figured that part out yet .

Moving across the country is just what Karim needed to get a fresh start. It's been two years, but the lingering pain from his wife's abandonment is hard to shake. Therapy helped him gather the shattered pieces of his heart, but healing is slow work and Karim is definitely not ready for a relationship.

That doesn't mean he can't appreciate a brilliant woman. Especially one with high cheekbones, full lips, and legs for days. Not that he is falling for her or anything.

Despite the personal and professional risk, Karim and Isadora can't deny their chemistry. As their feelings develop from lust to something more, they are forced to reconcile past pain for a chance at happiness. Overcoming their emotional trauma is hard enough. When Karim's boss conspires to take over the Senate, everything Isadora worked for could be destroyed and Karim's new life could be ruined before it's even begun.

GIA DE CADENET is a business school professor, former translator and editor for UNESCO. NOT THE PLAN was showcased in the 2017 PitchWars mentorship program, is a Maggie Award for Excellence finalist and won 2nd place in the CIMRWA Romantic Suspense Contest. Gia is enthusiastic about her upcoming projects which focus on the impact of mental health and race on the expectations we have of ourselves and on the way we love.

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Polar Vortex

Shani Mootoo

For readers of Herman Koch, Rachel Cusk, and Andre Alexis comes a seductive and tension-filled new novel by one of Canada's most widely acclaimed literary fiction authors, Shani Mootoo.

Priya, our protagonist, is fairly unreliable and like some of us, dishonest with herself and those around her, especially about her relationship to her partner Alex and her past "friendship" with Prakash.

So when a visit from her old friend Prakash disrupts Priya's home life with Alex, questions of Priya's true intentions surface in her monogamous relationship with Alex. Did Priya invite Prakash? And if so why? And if not, why does she want him to visit so badly after being out of touch with him for years?

POLAR VORTEX dances the line between a *Mrs. Dalloway* stream-of-consciousness storytelling with a *Little Fires Everywhere* atmosphere of foreboding.

SHANI MOOTOO was born in Ireland, grew up in Trinidad and lives in Canada. She holds an MA in English from the University of Guelph, writes fiction and poetry, and is a visual artist who has exhibited locally and internationally. Mootoo's novels include *Moving Forward Sideways Like a Crab*, long-listed for the Scotia Bank Giller Prize, shortlisted for the Lambda Award; *Valmiki's Daughter*, long-listed for the Scotia Bank Giller Prize; *He Drown She in the Sea*, long-listed for the Dublin IMPAC Award, and *Cereus Blooms at Night*, shortlisted for the Scotiabank Giller Prize, *The Chapters First Novel Award*, *The Ethel Wilson Book Prize*, and long-listed for the Man Booker Prize. She is a K.M. Hunter Arts Award and 2017 Chalmers Fellowship Award, and the James Duggins Outstanding Midcareer Novelist Award recipient. Her visual art has been exhibited locally and internationally, most notably at the Museum of Modern Art, NYC, the Vancouver Art Gallery, and at the Venice Biennale at the Transculture Pavilion. She currently lives in Prince Edward County in Ontario.

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The Season of Fury and Wonder

Sharon Butala

In her fourth brilliant collection of short stories, **THE SEASON OF FURY AND WONDER**, Sharon Butala explores the lives of old women: their rage, their regrets, their secrets, and the small joys they still relish. Filled with wisdom and irony, bitterness and gratitude, quotidian concerns and ultimate questions, **THE SEASON OF FURY AND WONDER** is an exploration of old age and womanhood by an iconic writer from the canon of Canadian literature, Sharon Butala.

Out of a sense of duty to her sister, in “What Else We Talk About When We Talk About Love,” an old woman visits her dying brother-in-law, whom she has loathed for years, and experiences an epiphany of compassion and forgiveness, as she says good-bye to him. In “Grace’s Garden,” Grace takes full command of her life, in complete defiance of her children and social worker, as she chooses a dramatic death, rather than enter a care facility. In “Elephants,” Maggie weighs her memories of her significant relationships—husbands, and dear girlfriends, none of whom are alive to lessen her loneliness—as she attends a powerful art exhibit, which sends her in to spiritual reveries. In “Guilt: a Discussion,” four old women devise a parlour game in which one asks a question that the others have to answer, leading to astonishing revelations, for which ghosts from the past act as audience, judge, and juror.

SHARON BUTALA is the author of nineteen books of fiction and nonfiction, numerous essays and articles, poetry, and five produced plays. She published her first novel in 1984, *Country of the Heart*, which was nominated for the *Books in Canada First Novel Award*. Born in Nipawin, Saskatchewan, she graduated from the University of Saskatchewan, and taught English in her home province and Nova Scotia. She eventually returned to Saskatchewan to live, for three decades, on her husband Peter Butala’s ranch.

Ms Butala’s bestselling books have been nominated for numerous awards, including the *Governor General’s Award* and *The City of Calgary W.O. Mitchell Book Prize*. She is also the recipient of the *Order of Canada*, the *Queen’s Jubilee Medal*, and three honorary degrees from Canadian universities. As well, Ms. Butala has received two lifetime achievement awards for her work: *Cheryl and Henry Kloppenburg Award* and the *Marion Engel Award*. For more information about Sharon Butala, see Sharonbutala.com.

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Praise for Sharon Butala:

“Through sixteen works of fiction and non-fiction, Sharon Butala has established herself as a pre-eminent literary voice of the Canadian Prairie experience...her own deep observations and compelling characters challenge narratives of western development that are all too often male-dominated and anglo-centric.”

—*Prairie Messenger Review*

“...one of this country’s true visionaries.”

—*Toronto Star*

“The sparseness and carefully crafted simplicity of these stories is truly compelling. Butala is a strong inheritor of the Chekavian tradition—imparting dignity and a kind of tarnished grandeur to the difficult and puzzling lives her characters find themselves living.”

—*Jurors’ Citation, Saskatchewan Book Awards*

“Her novels are overwhelmingly realistic, but the intense writing of her short stories steps past its own location and cadence, and shines.” *Bloomsbury Guide to Women’s Literature*

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The Student

Cary Fagan

In the tradition of *Mrs. Dalloway* by Virginia Woolf and reminiscent of *Brooklyn* by Colm Toibin, Cary Fagan brings Miriam fully to life in masterful prose full of beauty and insight.

Part One. In the fall of 1957, Miriam Moscovitz is a serious and passionate young student of literature at the University of Toronto, an insightful reader of the new critics, of T.S. Eliot, of Beckett. And she is a dutiful if headstrong Jewish daughter, the apple of her father's eye, the worry of her mother (who leaves her books on 'women's problems'). She studies hard, goes to college parties, works summers, dates a young Jewish man with a good job, worships the professors whose offices she visits in the hallowed quadrangle of beautiful, stately University College. Life seems to be going just as she wants it. Until she asks a professor to recommend her for the graduate program at the university and discovers that she's not welcome. Everything changes for Miriam, who begins a reckless affair with an American student obsessed with the civil rights clashes in the south. When the young man abandons her to join the movement back home, Miriam gets on a bus to follow him, no longer sure of anything in her life.

Part Two. Sunday, August 1, 2005. Miriam is seventy years old. The family descends on her house in preparation for the marriage ceremony of her son Michael, one of the first gay marriages in the country. A retired professor and a grandmother, Miriam finds her life upended by the knowledge that her husband, a doctor several years younger, is having another affair. While trying to take care of her family as well as help a woman Muslim student, she faces anew the question of how to live.

CARY FAGAN is a highly acclaimed, award-winning author of picture books and novels for kids in addition to his acclaim as an author of novels and anthologies for adults. His books include *The Market Wedding* (Sydney Taylor Honor Book, Jewish Book Award, World Storytelling Award), *Daughter of the Great Zandini* (Mr. Christie's Book Award, Silver Medal), *The Fortress of Kaspar Snit* (Silver Birch Honor Book), and most recently, *Directed by Kaspar Snit and Ten Old Men and a Mouse*. He is the author of a YA biography of dancer Chan Hon Goh, *Beyond the Dance*, a finalist for the Norma Fleck Award. Cary Fagan also writes novels and story collections for adults. He lives in Toronto with his two daughters.

More information about Cary Fagan can be found on his website: Caryfagan.com

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This Has Nothing To Do With You

Lauren Carter

For fans of Miriam Toews and Karen Joy Fowler, **THIS HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH YOU** is a complex character-driven novel that explores how we are tied to each other, how you can't outrun grief, and how sometimes, it's your turn to take care of your family.

THIS HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH YOU is narrated by 21-year-old Melony Barnett who is trying to come to terms with the reality that her mother murdered her father and her father's girlfriend.

The story begins in April 1994, nearly three years after the murders and a few months after Mel has returned from traveling in the American Southwest in an attempt to escape her family circumstances. Her mother is now in a women's prison, although Mel refuses to take her calls or re-spond to her letters. Mel's older brother, Matt, who dropped out of uni-versity and altered his plans in order to help their mother through her tri-al, is married and has an infant daughter in Norbury, where Mel also lives now.

When Mel discovers during her job working with the library archives that Sophie is actually her father's girlfriend's step-sister she learns a deep lesson in empathy, acceptance and forgiveness while also realizing that her brother has not told her the whole truth about the circumstances leading to her abusive father's murder.

Meanwhile, Matt is slowly slipping into a long-delayed breakdown. When Matt is hospitalized after a suicide attempt and Mel learns about his feelings of responsibility because their mother told him her plans and he did nothing, Mel realizes that she must take on his role as care-giver. When their mother is injured in a prison altercation and needs support, Mel must decide whether or not to come to terms with her mother despite her anger and unresolved feelings about her past.

THIS HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH YOU explores the helplessness many of us feel as we watch world and personal events we are powerless to control and the need to either step forward to do what we can or retreat in order to heal.

LAUREN CARTER is the author of the novel *Swarm*, named by CBC as one of forty books that could change Canada. Her short story was selected by John Metcalf for inclusion in *15: Best Canadian Stories*. A transplanted Ontarian, she lives near Winnipeg, Manitoba. Visit her online at www.laurencarter.ca.

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A Good Wife

Samra Zafar

She faced years of abuse after arriving in Canada as a teenage bride in a hastily arranged marriage, but nothing could stop Samra Zafar from pursuing her dreams.

At 15, Samra Zafar had big dreams for herself. She was going to go to university, and forge her own path. Then with almost no warning, those dreams were pulled away from her when she was suddenly married to a stranger at 16 and had to leave behind her family in the UAE to move to Canada. Her new husband and his family promised that the marriage and the move would be a fulfillment of her dream, not a betrayal of it. But as the walls of their home slowly became a prison, Samra realized the promises were empty ones.

In the years that followed she suffered her husband's emotional and physical abuse that left her feeling isolated, humiliated and assaulted. Desperate to get out, and refusing to give up, she hatched an escape plan for herself and her two daughters. Somehow she found the strength to not only build a new future, but to walk away from her past, ignoring the pleas of her family and risking cultural isolation by divorcing her husband.

But that end was only the beginning for Samra. Through her academic and career achievements, she has gone on to become a mentor and public speaker, connecting with people around the world from isolated women in situations similar to her own, to young schoolgirls in Kenya who never allowed themselves to dream to men making the decisions to save for their daughters' educations instead of their dowries. A GOOD WIFE tells her harrowing and inspiring story, following her from a young girl with big dreams, through finding strength in the face of oppression and then finally battling through to empowerment.

SAMRA ZAFAR is an international speaker, human rights activist, scholar, author and social entrepreneur. She also serves as a Governor for the University of Toronto, is pursuing a rewarding corporate career and runs Brave Beginnings, the non-profit organization she founded to support abuse survivors in their journey to build a life of respect and freedom. Her free time is dedicated to her two beautiful daughters and her passion for empowering others through her advocacy and non-profit work.

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A Mind Spread Out on the Ground

Alicia Elliott

For readers of Ta-Nehisi Coates comes Alicia Elliott's *A MIND SPREAD OUT ON THE GROUND* which questions, confronts and challenges our ubiquitous taboos and ignorance around racism, poverty and sexism as experienced by Elliott, an award-winning Tuscarora writer, who grew up on Six Nations reserve and in both the U.S. and Canada.

What are the links between depression, colonialism and loss of language—both figurative and literal? How does white privilege operate in different contexts, specifically for a person who is mixed race? What does it mean to be a "bad mother"? How do we navigate the painful contours of mental illness in loved ones without turning them into their sickness? How does colonialism operate on the level of literary criticism?

A MIND SPREAD OUT ON THE GROUND, Elliott's debut essay collection, is her attempt to answer these questions and more. While the title comes from a Mohawk phrase used to describe depression, the image of seeing a mind spread out on the ground is how she has come to view this collection: watching the synapses fire, making connections between past and present, between the personal and the political, between the seemingly smallest details of a life and the huge, historical patterns we keep stubbornly enacting. These essays are Alicia's mind spread out on the ground for us. By offering us pieces of her life, as well as insight into how that life relates to the history of this country and continent, Elliott hopes to encourage readers to think the same way about our lives: how it has been impacted and shaped by history, and our role in not only upholding that history, but changing it, creating a better history for tomorrow.

ALICIA ELLIOTT is a Tuscarora writer living in Brantford, Ontario with her husband and daughter. Her writing has been published by *The Malahat Review*, *The Butter*, *Room*, *Grain*, *The New Quarterly*, *CBC*, *The Globe and Mail*, *Vice*, *Maclean's*, *Maisonneuve*, *Today's Parent* and *Reader's Digest*. She's currently *Associate Nonfiction Editor* at *Little Fiction | Big Truths*, and a consulting editor with *The New Quarterly*. Her essay, "A Mind Spread Out on the Ground" won a *National Magazine Award*. She will be the 2017-2018 *Geoffrey and Margaret Andrew Fellow* at *UBC*, working with their *Creative Writing Department*. Alicia is also presently working a manuscript of short fiction.

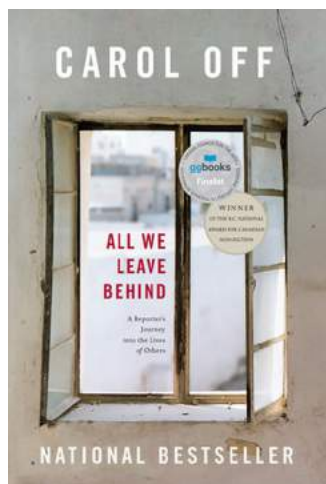
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All We Leave Behind

A REPORTER'S JOURNEY INTO THE LIVES OF OTHERS

Carol Off

Winner of the prestigious 2018 BC National Award for Canadian Non-Fiction and a finalist for the 2017 Governor General's Award for Non-fiction, the Shaughnessy Cohen Prize for Political Writing, and Hilary Weston Writers' Trust Prize for Nonfiction.

An incredible work of non-fiction that reads like a thriller, ALL WE LEAVE BEHIND is the true story of a family fleeing the death sentence of a ruthless warlord, written by the journalist who broke all her own rules to get them to safety.

Just after the events of 9/11, journalist Carol Off was on assignment in Afghanistan where she met a man with a story to tell. Asad Aryubwal said he wanted to expose the tyranny of his country's warlords and reveal their deep involvement with American and NATO troops. He took a calculated risk when he agreed to appear in a CBC documentary that Carol and a TV crew were preparing. His courage and candour set off a chain of events from which there was no turning back. Asad, his wife, and their five children had to flee into exile.

On a return visit, Carol found the family hiding in Pakistan where Asad's life was in imminent danger. She found herself compelled to cross the line that separates a reporter from the story and to become deeply involved with the Aryubwals. Together, they navigated a maze of international bureaucracy and political intrigue until the family finally found a new home in Canada.

Carol Off's powerful account traces not only one remarkable family's journey, it also explores what happens when a journalist gets caught up in the lives of the people she reports on, and is unable to leave them behind.



CAROL OFF is the host of CBC radio's *As It Happens*, the network's flagship evening radio program covering human interest stories worldwide. With extensive experience in both Canadian and international current affairs, Off has covered conflicts in the Middle East, Haiti, the Balkans and the sub-continent, as well as events in the former Soviet Union, Europe, Asia, the United States and Canada. She reported the fallout from the 9/11 disasters with news features and documentaries from New York, Washington, London, Cairo and Afghanistan. She has won numerous awards for her CBC television documentaries in Asia, Africa and Europe and is the author of three previous books, most recently, *Bitter Chocolate: Investigating the Dark Side of the World's Most Seductive Sweet*, a finalist for the National Business Book Award and nominated for the prestigious Shaughnessy Cohen Award for Political Writing. She lives in Toronto.

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“With clear, page-turning prose, Off embarks on a rigorous and honest examination of her role in the family's fate, first as a journalist, but ultimately as a friend, when she crosses the line of dispassionate reportage and becomes deeply involved in their bid to reach Canada. The book is an insightful contemplation of journalism's mission, and its impact on the lives of the people who dare to speak out in the name of truth.”

—2017 Hilary Weston Writers' Trust Prize for Nonfiction jury

“*All We Leave Behind* is a timely memoir that offers both context to and a close-up of uncomfortable truths: the failures of the West's involvement in Afghanistan, the hurdles confronting refugees who seek safety... and the dilemma of a combat journalist expected to maintain professional distance from her sources. With bracing insight and a skillfully crafted narrative, this work forces a rethinking of our attitudes to those who ask us for sanctuary.”

—BC National Book Award for Canadian Nonfiction jury citation

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Alone: A Love Story

Michelle Parise

A debut memoir based on the podcast which has become an international sensation!

"Alone: A Love Story" the podcast has over 3.5 million downloads to date and 85,000 weekly downloads. This memoir of love, marriage and life after betrayal resonates with listeners all over the world.

ALONE: *A Love Story* is an intensely relatable tale of heartbreak and hope that taps into the loneliness inside all of us. No matter how many times love kicks her in the shins, Parise doesn't give up on hope or on herself. The only thing to do once you've hit bottom is to swim back up!

It started with a smirk. Michelle was living the enchanted life of an artsy 20-something in the big city when she met, The Scientist, a charming grad student on the periphery of her social circle. They had nothing in common: he didn't read books, had no interest in foreign films, and couldn't even tell The Beatles apart. But it didn't matter. They were instantly, madly in love.

With raw honesty, Michelle Parise takes you on her winding journey from lust to heartbreak, through loneliness and despair, to eventually finding the courage to face the question mark of life, alone. But this story isn't just about one woman; it's a tale of heartbreak and hope that taps into the loneliness inside all of us.

MICHELLE PARISE has been a producer for CBC Radio and Television for over two decades. Born and raised in Toronto in a gigantic Italian immigrant family, Michelle was surrounded by storytellers, and as a child she wrote hundreds of short stories about her life. When she was 11-years-old she wrote a feminist novella in response to a book she'd taken issue with on the Grade 7 reading list. The teacher made it part of the curriculum in the years following. Her commitment to honest storytelling started early, is what we're getting at, and is part of everything she creates, continually striving to make connection through shared experience.

World Rights Available
Manuscript ready for submission Fall 2018

Film Rights Available
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iTunes - highest charting positions:
Canada - #2 (on Sep 23, 2017 - just 5 days after release)
Australia - #1 (on Nov 7, 2017)
United States - #35 (on Sept 21, 2017)

The 50 Best Podcasts of 2017, The Atlantic
Gold Radio Winner (Season 1), New York Festivals

“Michelle Parise knows how to shape and deliver a story that will keep you coming back for more... [T]he rise and fall of her marriage, and the bizarro choices she and her ex-husband made in its aftermath—like intentionally buying houses across the street from each other—will have you double-checking whether or not this actually is a memoir. (It is.) Her decision-making leads her to the edge of cliché but is also **immensely relatable.**”

—*The Atlantic*

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Between the Peaks of Light

LOSING MYSELF AND FINDING THE HEART OF KINDNESS IN NEPAL

Mary Paterson

On a bright cold day, a man was leaving a woman. Twenty-eight days later, the woman was kicked out of her home. It didn't matter that the owner of the house himself wished to move in. She'd just been crushingly dumped. The next month she lost her job. Well not exactly. She sold her business—a termination from work that she'd loved for eleven years. She hadn't foreseen the wrenching loneliness and loss of identity to come. So there she was. Heart-broken. Homeless. Jobless. Oh, and she'd just turned forty-nine.

BETWEEN THE PEAKS OF LIGHT is a story about losing a self and finding kindness. Broken and naked and stripped raw from a bad streak, Mary Paterson journeyed to the great mountains of Nepal for fifty days over her fiftieth birthday in search of renewed purpose and with just one intention—to help others. Along the way, she encounters monks o planes, wandering mystics, a man named Jesus, wild dogs, and a band of barefoot boys in back alleys. All of them taught her the healing power and radiant joy of true kindness.

MARY PATERSON is the author of the spiritual memoir, *The Monks and Me: How 40 Days in Thich Nhat Hanh's French Monastery Guided Me Home*, about her pilgrimage to the Buddhist monastery of the world-renowned Noble Peace prize nominee. It was published by Hampton Roads in the U.S. and Canada in 2012, with foreign translations in Holland, France, Germany, Brazil, Lithuania, Czechoslovakia, Poland, Turkey, and China. Paterson was the Founder of Toronto's Lotus Yoga Centre, where for eleven years she taught people from all walks of life: from A-list celebrities and artists to physicians and C.E.O's. She recently sold the Centre to focus on writing full-time.

Mary has traveled extensively throughout India and Nepal studying with renowned masters of various spiritual disciplines with a strong focus on Zen and Tibetan Buddhist practices. She holds a BA in psychology from Queen's University and currently teaches writing and meditation at the University of Toronto. Trained in classical ballet, Mary has performed in theatre and film, producing works with such luminaries as the singer Jane Siberry and the internationally celebrated author, Michael Ondaatje. For more details, visit: Marypaterson.ca.

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“This wonderfully honest and often humorous chronicle is about finding a true home within ourselves. Life changing and inspiring, it will touch your heart.”

—Kristine Pidkameny, Editor-in-Chief, *One Spirit*®

“A magnificent book that eloquently juxtaposes Thich Nhat Hanh's Buddhist philosophy against modern-day living—inspired, as seen through Paterson's eyes. This book is a revelation of spirituality in quotidian things, of balance and fragility in the midst of chaos, and most of all a testimony to mindfulness. It is a must read for anyone who wants simple recipes for ethical living.”

—Dr. Sema K. Sgaier, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation

“There's nothing better than a Buddhist with a sense of humor. Mary Paterson shares her vision of a joyful, committed Buddhism that can help us live gracefully in this very strange world. I feel better already.”

—Brian Haycock, author of *Dharma Road*

“Through her engaging stories, Mary has brilliantly interwoven the teachings of the Buddha with real life experiences, giving this ancient Eastern wisdom present-day relevance. Full of courage, honesty and humor, this is a deeply moving account of a sacred pilgrimage that reveals insights on how to live joyfully. With open heartedness and grace, Mary brings us along on a fascinating journey of discovery.”

—Xiaolan Zhao, CMD, author of *Inner Beauty and Reflections of the Moon on Water*

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Bos Taurus

HOW THE COW CHANGED THE COURSE OF CIVILIZATION

Rob Firing

In the traditions of *Sapiens: A Brief History of Humankind* by Yuval Noah Harari and Mark Kurlansky's *Cod*, and Simon Winchester's *The Map that Changed the World*, BOS TAURUS examines the profound and lasting effects that cows have had on human history and culture, on our economy, on our way of life and on our planet.

Not all that long ago, ecologically speaking, Paleolithic humans shared the plains with billions upon billions of enormous grazing beasts, spanning vast expanses of grassland on every continent in the world except Antarctica. These herds were so enormous and packed so densely they could be seen as dark, moving masses from great distances, their hoofs and calls sounding on the wind for miles. One such beast, the mighty aurochs, survives in part within the genome of the most abundant large animal on Earth today: *Bos taurus*—the humble cow.

There have been many books about horses and their majesty, and some about how the horse carried us to civilization, but in a way our relationship to cows is far more intimate. Like horses, cows did a lot of heavy lifting (though unlike horses, never for war), but they also fed us their bodies and their milk, provided the vast majority of animal hide for clothing, tools, fasteners, coverings and many other things, fertilized crops in an astoundingly effective way, created pastureland and changed entire ecosystems, and in general permitted populations to endure and surge when they might have failed. The world feels the effects that this had on European history: Europeans were the first to carry the mutated genetic capacity to express lactase, allowing them to drink milk (and as a result, to not die in the series of serious famines in Europe through its history, and partly as a result of that, allowing them to colonize many regions of the world).

The history of cows is not merely the history of parmesan, leather and the 75 hamburgers that McDonald's alone serves every second (true), it is a way of understanding human evolution, a unique glimpse into the environment that we helped shape for ourselves over millennia, a framework for understanding the origins our culture, and an examination of the life and times of one of the most impressive animals to grace our epoch.

ROB FIRING is well known to butchers around Toronto as something of a steak fanatic. Rob has written for Publishers' Weekly, the Toronto Star and various food blogs, and is the co-author of *The Everyday Squash Cook*, which was shortlisted for *The Taste Canada Award*. Rob lives in Toronto.

World Rights Available Ex:

Proposal Available Fall 2018

Film Rights Available

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Dead Mom Walking

Rachel Matlow

DEAD MOM WALKING is a cross between Tig Notaro's dark comedy *One Mississippi* and Chris Kelly's devastatingly funny *Other People*, with a queer dose of Alison Bechdel and a Jewish dollop of *Transparent*.

The story begins in 2010 when Rachel's mom Elaine—a 66-year-old alternative high school teacher—is diagnosed with first-stage rectal cancer. The city's top surgeons are confident that she can be cured if she acts fast. But instead, she sets out on a path to heal herself “naturally” rather than submit to the deceptive ways of Evil Western Medicine.

Rachel is a gay, 30-year-old radio producer, and very good friends with her mom. Rachel usually finds her mom's dalliances with New Age trends highly entertaining (meditation, shaman camp, reiki, chakras, etc.), but this time she's gone too far.

Horrified by her decision, Rachel tries to convince her to get the recommended surgery, but she continues to resist and delves into a smorgasbord of what Rachel considers to be pie-in-the-sky cures: energy healing, visualization, herbs, etc. She even takes ayahuasca (with Rachel!). Elaine reads dozens of books that criticize the cancer industry and becomes increasingly fundamentalist in her view that Western medicine has got it all wrong. Elaine insists that she has “just as good a chance” of healing herself with positive thinking. Tired of fighting her, Rachel opts to pursue a peaceful relationship; however, in her view, she is a dead mom walking.

Nearly five years—and several herbal concoctions—later, Elaine is told that her cancer has spread to her liver and she has less than six months to live. Rachel's worst fear is coming true. So she takes a leave of absence and moves in to take care of her.

Rachel makes it her mission to spend every last living second with Elaine. Luckily, Elaine and Rachel have always shared a dark sense of humour and that wasn't going to stop just because the ship was sinking. If anything, her dying gives them more material to work with. Enter the death doula, “after party” planning, and daily doses of cannabis oil. For seven weeks, Rachel and Elaine binge-watch thrilling TV and talk openly about everything, including her fatal choices.

DEAD MOM WALKING is a dark comedy about a gender-queer boy-daughter's love for her alternative—or “queer”—mother. It is also the story of a child watching a parent make a decision they don't agree with, while remaining supportive in the face of an incomprehensible choice.

RACHEL MATLOW is an arts and culture journalist/audio producer at the CBC. She worked on Q for eight crazy years as well as Day 6, The Sunday Edition, and now, Spark. Her writing has appeared in The Globe and Mail, National Post, CBC.ca and The Believer. She recently won a 2016 Third Coast International Audio Festival award and a 2017 Gabriel Award for her documentary Dead Mom Talking.

World Rights Available Ex:
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Grudge

MY TEN YEAR FIGHT WITH FORGIVENESS

Kim Pittaway

“Can I forgive? Will I be forgiven? These questions have buzzed and hummed in my brain for as long as I can remember, their static so familiar that I almost stopped noticing it until a cross-country move increased the signal’s volume. I’d spent my adult life with more than a thousand miles between my father and me. Now I was home again, close again to the man who taught me to fight—and who I’ve spent my life fighting against. My father didn’t beat me. He didn’t sexually abuse me. His weapons were words. He belittled with criticism, scarred with sarcasm, took the air out of your joy with a single well-aimed barb. I thought I’d gotten over it, past it, around it. And then I moved back home to help my aging parents and found myself hating an angry old man. I’m not sure he deserves forgiveness. But hating him doesn’t seem much of an answer either.”

In GRUDGE, Pittaway uses her own journey to explore our universal and variable ability (and inability) to forgive the transgressions of everyday life. Through interviews and research she explores her subject from religious, philosophical, spiritual, historic, and scientific perspectives, weaving a complex and multi-faceted portrait of this complex emotion. Throughout her journey, Pittaway uses the light cast by the latest research to illuminate the dark corners of her own personal struggle, specifically through her relationship with her father.

GRUDGE is a deeply thoughtful and important work. It is entirely universal in its outlook, and is blessedly unvarnished. Says Pittaway, “I’m lucky to have smaller crimes to forgive, though that knowledge doesn’t necessarily make forgiving them any easier. And perhaps that’s how it should be. Perhaps too easy forgiveness isn’t forgiveness at all. Perhaps the struggle, and the insights it brings, is precisely the point.”

KIM PITTAWAY is an award-winning journalist and the recipient of several honours and awards for her work: she is a seven-time finalist for the National Magazine Awards, a winner of an honourable mention from the American Society of Journalists and Authors in service journalism, winner of a 2009 Canadian Science Writers Association Science & Society award in the radio documentary category, and finalist for the best newsstand issue (circ 200,000+) in the 2006 Canadian Newsstand Awards. In 2016 she received the National Magazine Awards Foundation’s Outstanding Achievement Award, recognizing career excellence and service to the Canadian magazine industry.

Pittaway is the former managing editor and editor-in-chief of Chatelaine magazine and has worked with a wide range of publications on editorial and online strategies, including for Toronto Life, Wedding Bells, Gardening Life, Chatelaine, the International Freedom of Expression Exchange (IFEX), and others. She has written for The Walrus, Maclean’s, Chatelaine, Canadian Living, Homemaker’s, Reader’s Digest, The Globe and Mail, the Toronto Star, Cottage Life, and others. She has also produced radio documentaries for CBC’s The Current and Tapestry. Pittaway is the current Executive Director of the MFA in Creative Nonfiction at the University of King’s College in Halifax and is President of the Writers’ Federation of Nova Scotia.

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The Lodge

Anna Maxymiw

For readers of *Eating Dirt* by Charlotte Gill and *Fire Season* by Philip Connors, this extraordinary memoir offers a glimpse into the joy, fear, filth, and ferocity of working at a remote fishing lodge in the boreal forest of Northern Ontario.

THE LODGE follows Anna through nine weeks of working as a housekeeper at a fishing lodge 100 kilometres south of James Bay—one summer of dirty work and dirtier humour, black bears and four-foot-long pike, and hot days and nights spent alongside the ghosts and spirits of Northern Ontario. As Anna grows accustomed to the ferocity of the boreal forest and the fishermen at the lodge, she comes face to face with dangerous wildlife, experiences unparalleled joy, and finds herself permanently altered by the fierceness of the environment, with a new repertoire of dirty jokes from the dockhands.

This memoir is a reflection on the nuances of the trophy fish and the people who pursue them, the fierce bonds that develop through shared, hard labour, and the everlasting power of the boreal forest and the creatures that inhabit it. When human ‘civilization’ meets black spruce, one yields to the other, and wildness follows.

ANNA MAXYMIW completed her MFA in creative writing at the University of British Columbia; her work has appeared in a range of Canadian and American publications, with some of the more notable being *The Globe and Mail* and *The Walrus*. Essays from her forthcoming memoir have been published in *The Malahat Review*, *Maisonneuve*, and *Hazlitt* and won *Silver* in the *Humour* category at the *National Magazine Awards*, where the piece was also nominated in the *Personal Journalism* category.

World Rights Available Ex:
Canada, McClelland & Stewart, Spring 2019

Manuscript Available

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“With vivid lyrical prose, and sparkling storytelling, Maxymiw takes readers deep into the boreal forest and far out of their comfort zones--something they’ll certainly be thankful for. At times humorous and heartfelt, and at others harrowing and humiliating, *The Lodge* is a fresh look at resiliency, camaraderie, and the enduring beauty of the wild, told by a passionate new voice in Canadian Literature.”

—Stacey May Fowles, author of *Baseball Life Advice*

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This English Home

Jane Christmas

A house move has never flustered author Jane Christmas. She loves houses: loves viewing them, negotiating the price, hiring trades to do the work, dreaming up interior plans, and overseeing the renovation. She loves it so much that she's moved house 30 times. By contrast, her English husband—as is typical of the British—has never moved more than a handful of times in his life. To his great consternation, Jane has foisted three moves on him in five years.

There are good reasons for this latest house move but after viewing 60 homes Jane and her husband succumb to the emotional fatigue of an overheated housing market and buy a wreck that is overpriced, that will require more money than they have to renovate it, and that neither of them particularly like.

Like all of Christmas' memoirs, *THIS ENGLISH HOME* goes far beyond plaster dust and paint swatches. As woodchip wallpaper is scraped off, carpets and floorboards ripped up, and cabinetry crowbarred from the walls, Jane's mind is tugged back to the homes she grew up in with parents who moved and renovated constantly, and her memories blow the seal off a strict and peripatetic childhood and its ancillary damage—lost friends, divorces, suicide attempts, and the shaky foundations of her current marriage. This current renovation dredges a deeper current of memory that makes her wonder whether in renovating a house, she's actually attempting to renovate her past.

With humour and irreverence, she observes “the English way” of renovation: the building trades with their constant need for biscuits and tea, the unfamiliar construction terminology, and the revelation that the builder they have hired is recovering from a mental illness. She weathers the truculence of a husband who not only hates moving but who is not handy, and the marriage comes under unsurprising strain. She confronts the guilt of gentrification, and she delves into the fascinating roots of the Victorian terrace home, a style that personifies the English personality.

THIS ENGLISH HOME reveals that what we think we gain by constantly moving house obscures the precious and vital parts of our lives that we leave behind.

The release in 2002 of The Pelee Project established Jane as a talented, distinctive voice, one that was by turns humorous, wise, and unflinchingly honest as she navigated the universal desire to exchange the frenzy of modern life for gentle simplicity. The book was followed by the hugely popular What the Psychic Told the Pilgrim, about her mid-life pilgrimage along Spain's famed Camino de Santiago de Compostela with fourteen women. Next came Incontinent on the Continent, a six-week road trip through Italy with her elderly and opinionated mother in the hopes of finding a rapprochement in their relationship. The publication in 2013 of And Then There Were Nuns chronicled Jane's discernment about entering religious life as an Anglican nun. The book was short-listed for the 2014 Leacock Memorial Award for Humour. Her conversational style and her irreverence make her books popular, but the honesty of her writing, often about the darker corners of life, has endeared her to an international legion of fans where her work has been published: Canada, the U.S., the UK, Australia, New Zealand, Portugal and Germany.

Born and raised in Canada, Jane is the mother of three wonderful adults, and the ex wife of two kind-hearted husbands. In 2012, she moved to the U.K., where she lives in southwest England with her current husband.

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 Manuscript Available September 2018
 Film Rights Available
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