

Reading Group Guides

A WEBSITE FROM THE BOOK REPORT NETWORK

13½ ANNUAL
**BOOK
GROUP**

**SPEED
DATING**

NOVEMBER 2024

Sourcebooks



The Most Famous Girl in the World

Iman Hariri-Kia

Sourcebooks Landmark

Trade Paperback Original

On sale: September 17, 2024

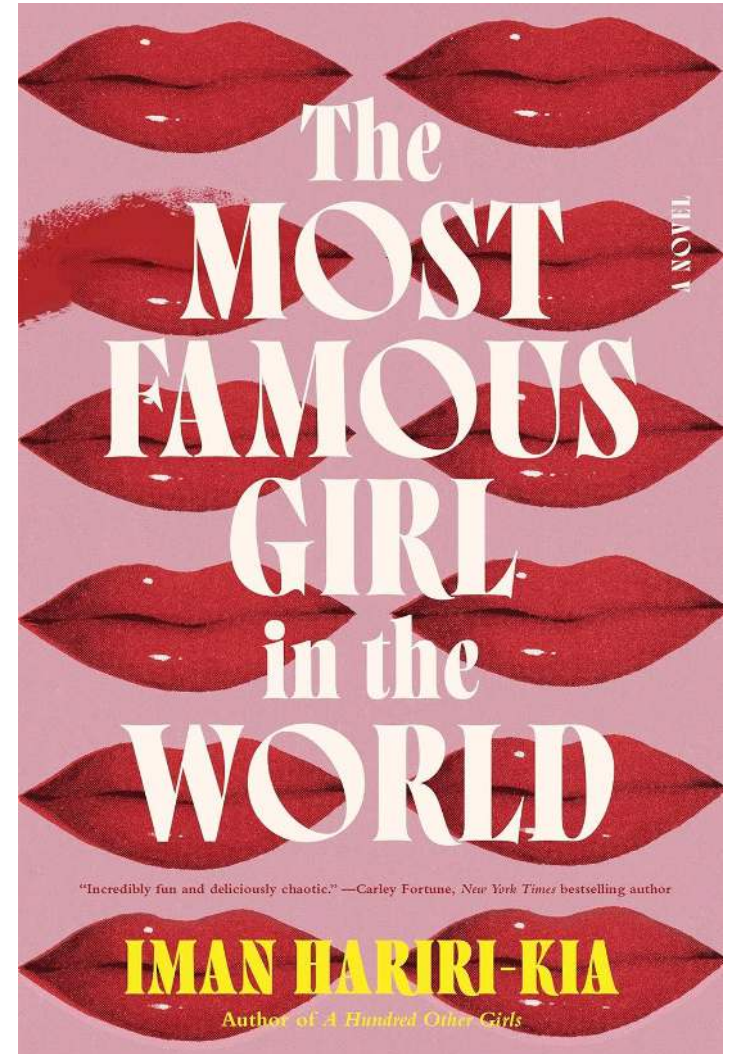
ISBN-13: 9781728270616

\$16.99

Stars --- they're just like us! Except much, much worse.

It's been two years since Rose --- a first-generation Middle Eastern American, functional trainwreck and reporter for the online journal *The Shred* --- wrote the investigative article that exposed Poppy Hastings as a socialite grifter. Although Poppy served her time for defrauding some of the richest, most powerful men in the world, Rose knows this is only the tip of the iceberg for Poppy's crimes. She just can't prove it yet. At least not without the help of a devilishly handsome FBI agent gone rogue.

Campy, satirical and utterly hilarious, *The Most Famous Girl in the World* is both a scathing indictment of modern celebrity and a thrilling rollercoaster ride of unhinged hijinks that will keep you gasping at every turn of the page.



Remember You Will Die

Eden Robins

Sourcebooks Landmark

Trade Paperback Original

On sale: October 22, 2024

ISBN-13: 9781728256030

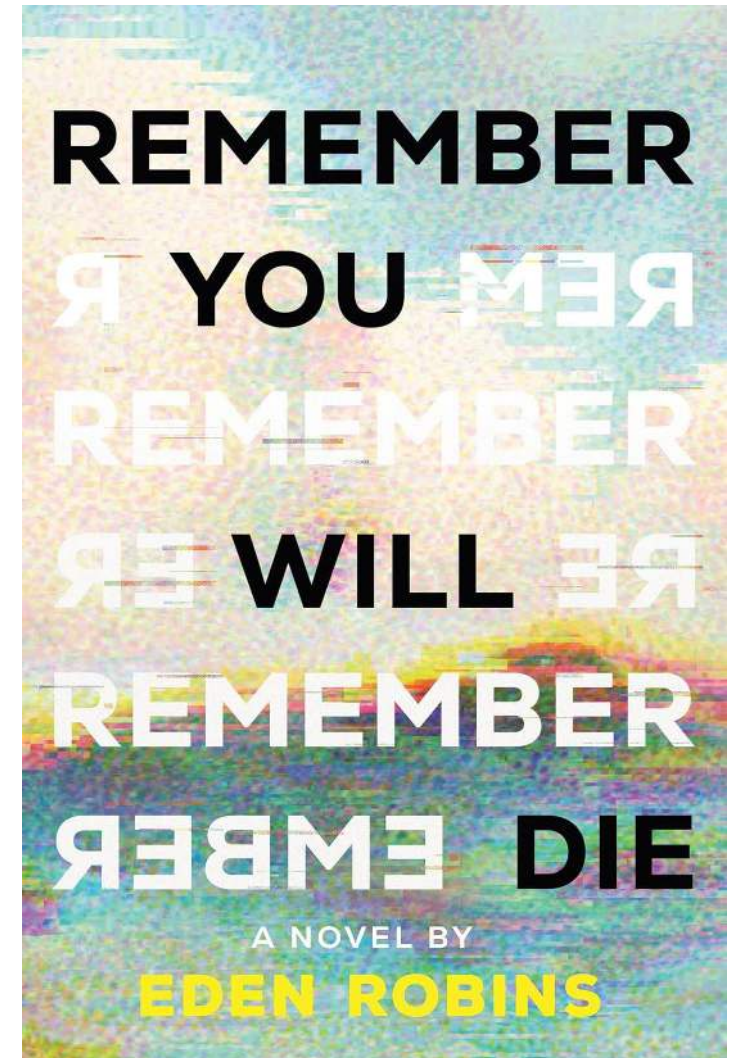
\$16.99

“Can the absence of words tell a story? Like a pattern in lace, the holes as important as the threads?”

A search. A puzzle. Sixty protagonists --- all of whom are dead.

Told entirely through obituaries and ricocheting through time, *Remember You Will Die* is an innovative, genre-bending epic about the messy tapestry of human history and the threads that connect us, told through the eyes of Peregrine, an AI mother grappling with the unexpected death of her human daughter, Poppy.

Spanning continents, centuries, planets and genres, and centering on a diverse mix of human experiences, *Remember You Will Die* is a provocative exploration of who we are and what we could be.



We Need No Wings

Ann Dávila Cardinal

Sourcebooks Landmark

Trade Paperback Original

On sale: September 10, 2024

ISBN-13: 9781728258508

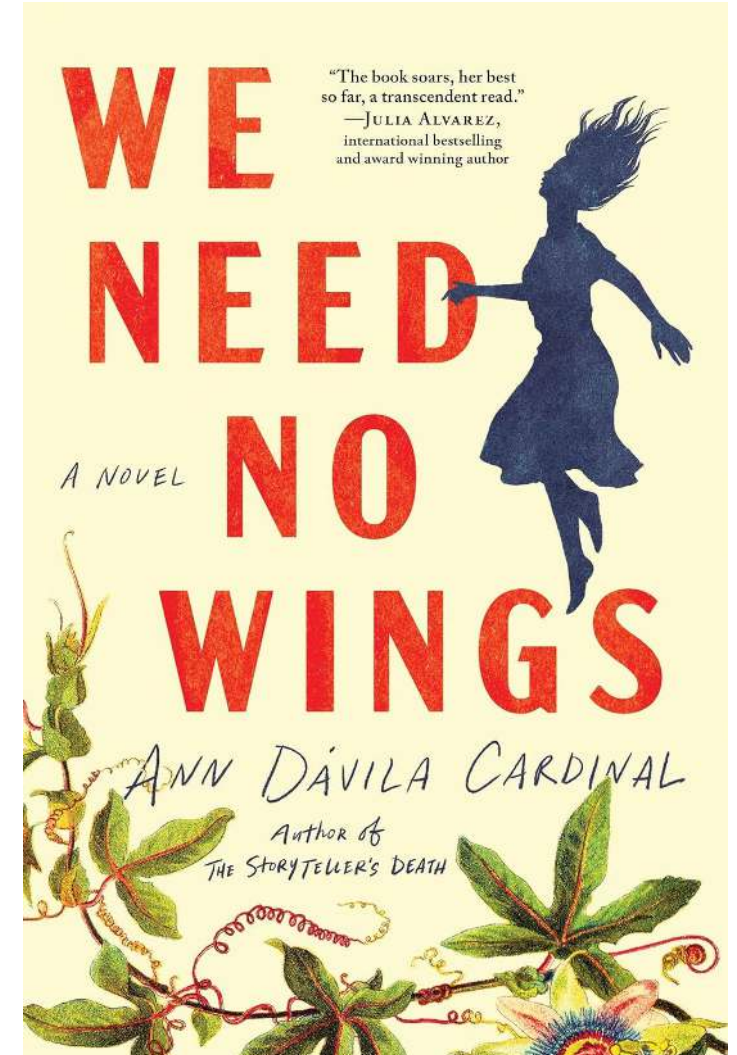
\$16.99

To be free, we must learn to fly.

Tere Sanchez has always known who she was: a professor, a wife, a mother and a friend. But when her husband dies unexpectedly, she finds herself completely broken. Taking a leave from the university, she spends a year consumed by grief.

Until the day she levitates.

Suddenly, Tere's life is thrown into disarray. When she's reminded that her family is related to the renowned levitating mystic, Saint Teresa of Avila, she leaves the refuge of her home and travels to Spain, hoping to find answers. But Saints can be elusive, and not all answers are easily found. Tere will soon have to decide whether to remain shrouded in her grief, or open her heart to a world where we need no wings to fly.



Libby Lost and Found

Stephanie Booth

Sourcebooks Landmark

Hardcover

On sale: **October 15, 2024**

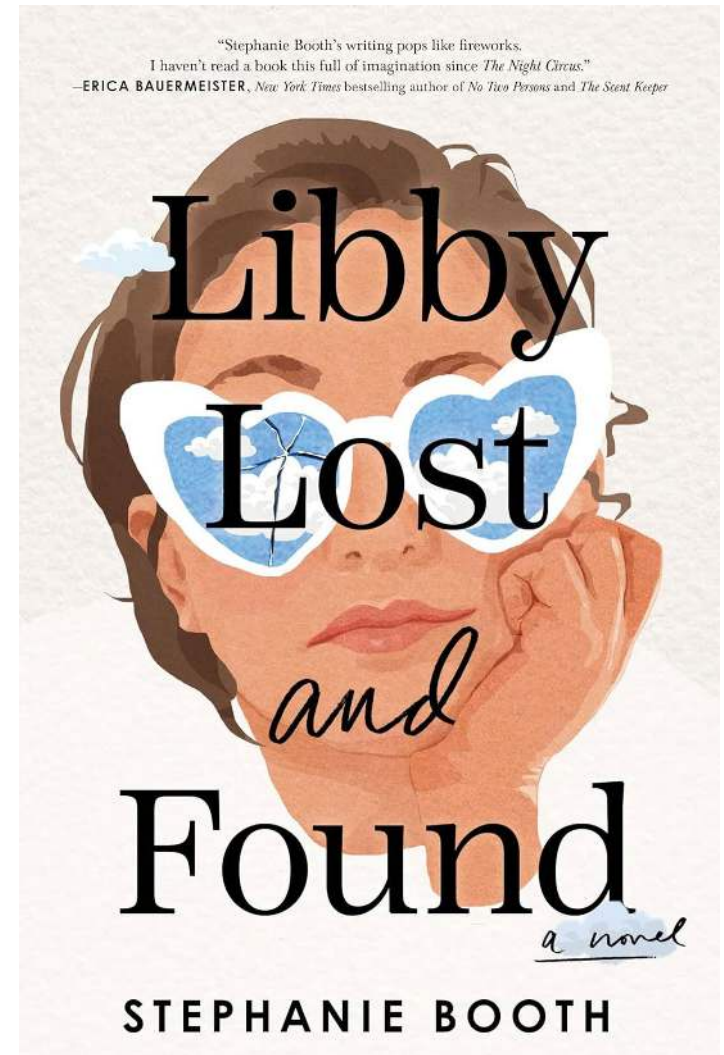
ISBN-13: 9781728278506

\$27.99

"I haven't read a book this full of imagination since *The Night Circus*."
— Erica Bauermeister

Meet Libby Weeks, author of the mega-bestselling fantasy series, *The Falling Children* --- written as "F.T. Goldhero" to maintain her privacy. When the last manuscript is already months overdue to her publisher and rabid fans around the world are growing impatient, Libby is diagnosed with early-onset Alzheimer's.

Desperately, she turns to 11-year-old superfan Peanut Bixton, who knows the books even better than she does but harbors her own dark secrets. Tensions mount as Libby's dementia deepens --- until both Peanut and Libby swirl into an inevitable but bone-shocking conclusion.



The Secret War of Julia Child

Diana R. Chambers

Sourcebooks Landmark

Trade Paperback Original

On sale: October 22, 2024

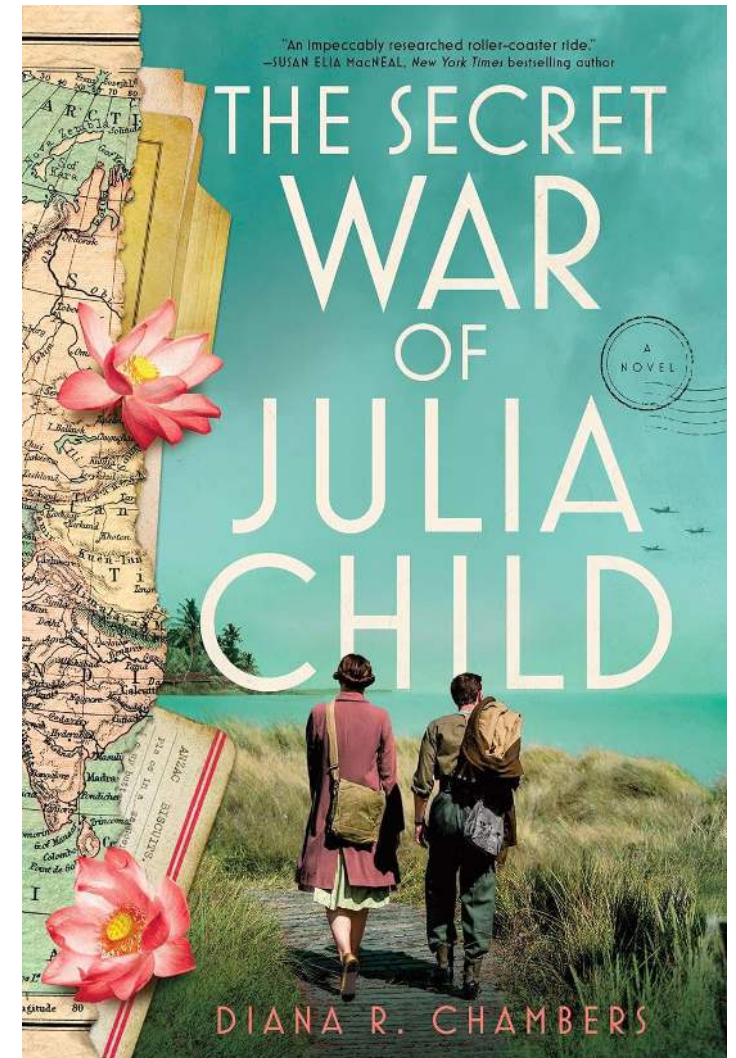
ISBN-13: 9781464219047

\$17.99

A *People* magazine Best Book of Fall!

Single, 6'2" and 30 years old, Julia McWilliams took a job working for America's first espionage agency, years before cooking or Paris entered the picture. *The Secret War of Julia Child* traces Julia's transformation from ambitious Pasadena blue blood to Washington, DC file clerk, to head of General "Wild Bill" Donovan's secret File Registry as part of the Office of Strategic Services.

The wartime journey takes her to South Asia's remote front lines of then-Ceylon, India, and China, where she finds purpose, adventure, self-knowledge --- and love with mapmaker Paul Child. The spotlight has rarely shone on this fascinating period of time in the life of ("I'm not a spy") Julia Child, and this lyrical story allows us to explore the unlikely world of a woman in a World War II spy station who has no idea of the impact she'll eventually impart.



A Forty Year Kiss

Nickolas Butler

Sourcebooks Landmark

Hardcover

On sale: February 4, 2025

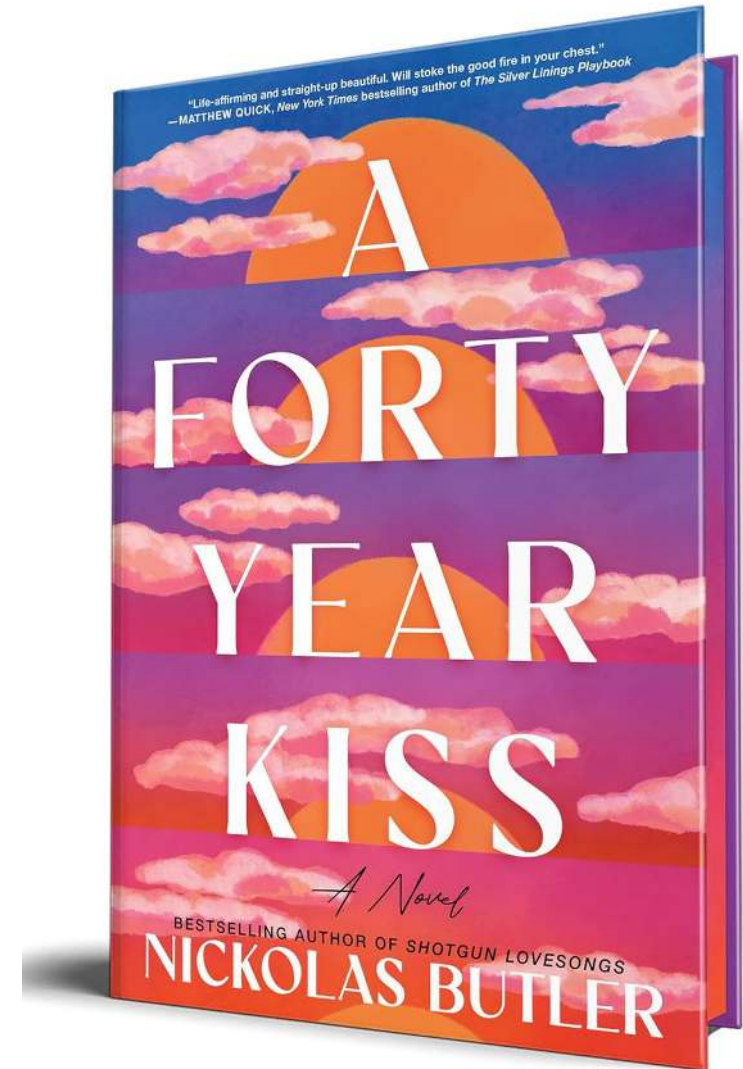
ISBN-13: 9781464221248

\$27.99

From the critically acclaimed author of *Shotgun Lovesongs* comes an exquisitely written, small-town story about one couple's hard-won second chance at love, 40 years after their divorce.

Charlie and Vivian parted ways after just four years of marriage. Too many problems, too many struggles, even though the love didn't quite die. When Charlie returns to Wisconsin 40 years later, he's not sure what he'll find. He is sure of one thing --- he must try to reconnect with Vivian to pick up the broken pieces of their past. But 40 years is a long time. It's 40 years of other relationships, 40 years of building new lives, and 40 years of long-held regrets, mistakes and painful secrets.

A Forty Year Kiss is a once-in-a-lifetime love story, written with dazzling lyricism and remarkable clarity of spirit, from a celebrated author at the top of his game. It's a literary valentine that promises to be a love story for the ages.



Grand Central Publishing



GRAND
CENTRAL

Tartufo

Kira Jane Buxton

Grand Central Publishing

Hardcover, e-book and audio

On sale: January 28, 2025

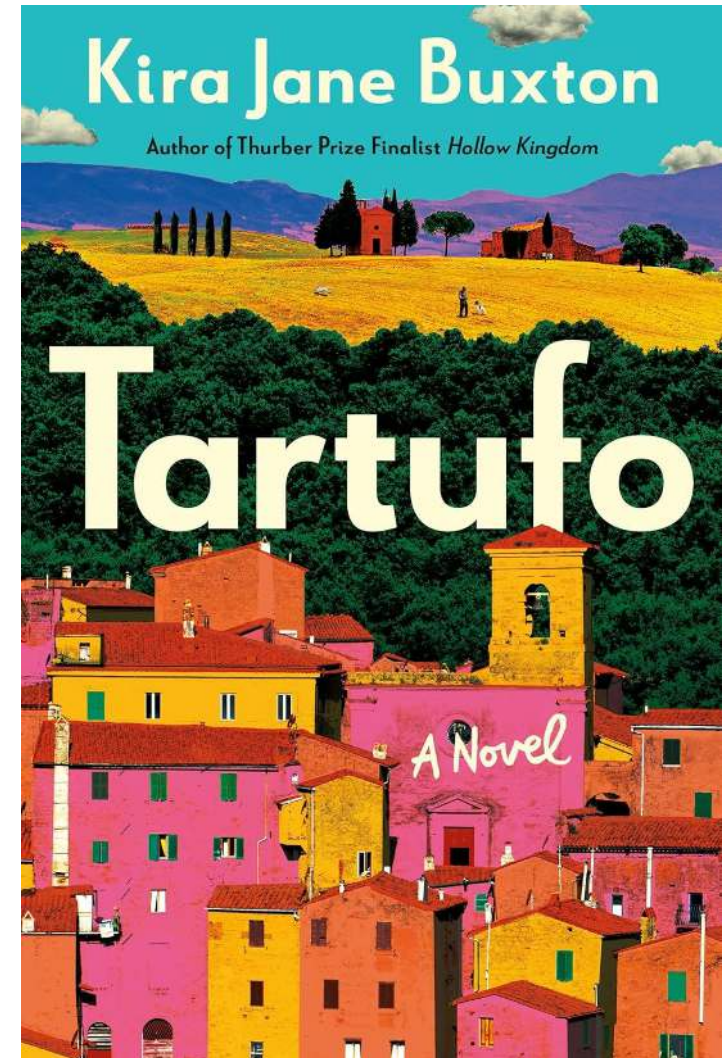
ISBN-13: 9781538770818

\$29.00

From the author of *Hollow Kingdom*, a fantastically funny story featuring a cast of colorful characters in a dying Italian village --- and a giant truffle that changes their fate forever. Perfect for fans of *Remarkably Bright Creatures*.



GRAND
CENTRAL



Strangers in Time

David Baldacci

Grand Central Publishing

Hardcover, e-book and audio

On sale: April 15, 2025

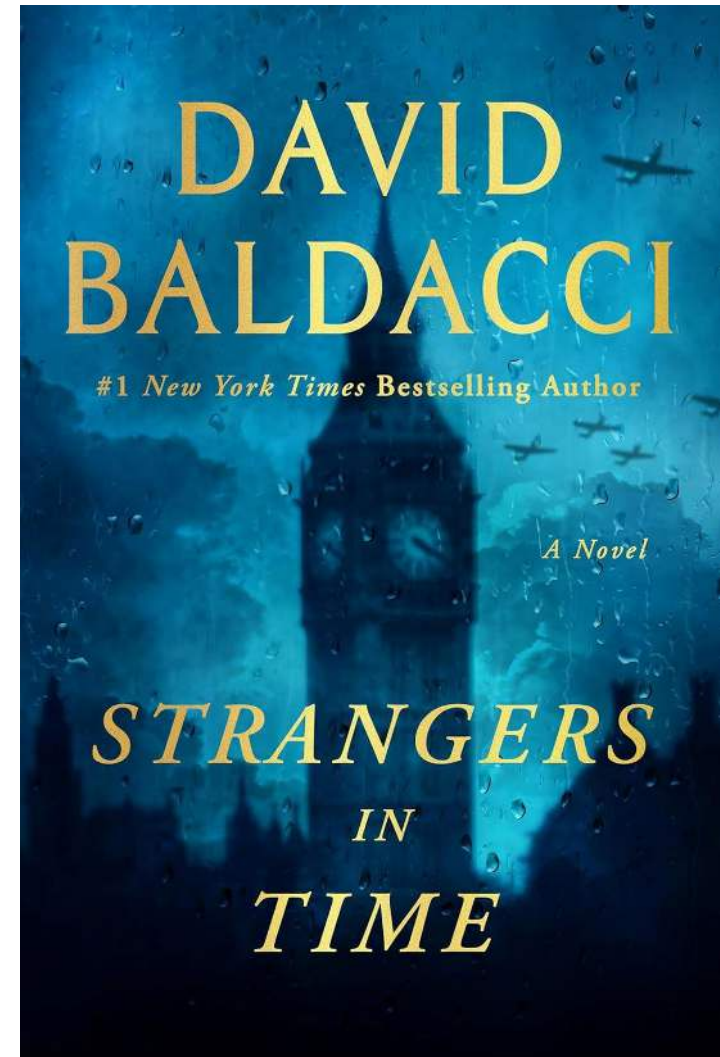
ISBN-13: 9781538742051

\$30.00

From the #1 *New York Times* bestselling author of *A Calamity of Souls* comes David Baldacci's newest novel, set in London in 1944, about a bereaved book shop owner and two teenagers scarred by the Second World War, and the healing and hope they find in one another.



GRAND
CENTRAL



Harlequin Trade Publishing



Last Twilight in Paris

Pam Jenoff

Park Row Books

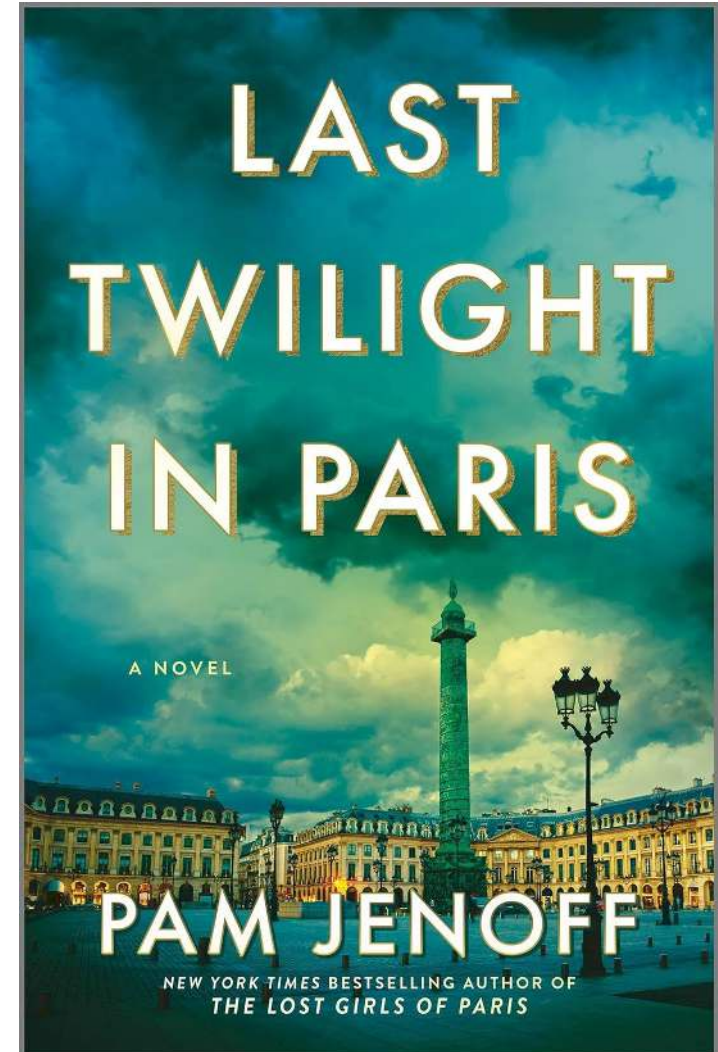
Hardcover

On sale: February 4, 2025

ISBN-13: 9780778307983

\$28.99

Inspired by a real department store in Paris that was converted to a Nazi prison camp, *Last Twilight in Paris* is a gripping story of love against all odds and one woman's quest to solve a decade-old mystery, from *New York Times* bestselling author Pam Jenoff.



Bat Eater and Other Names for Cora Zeng

Kylie Lee Baker

MIRA

Hardcover

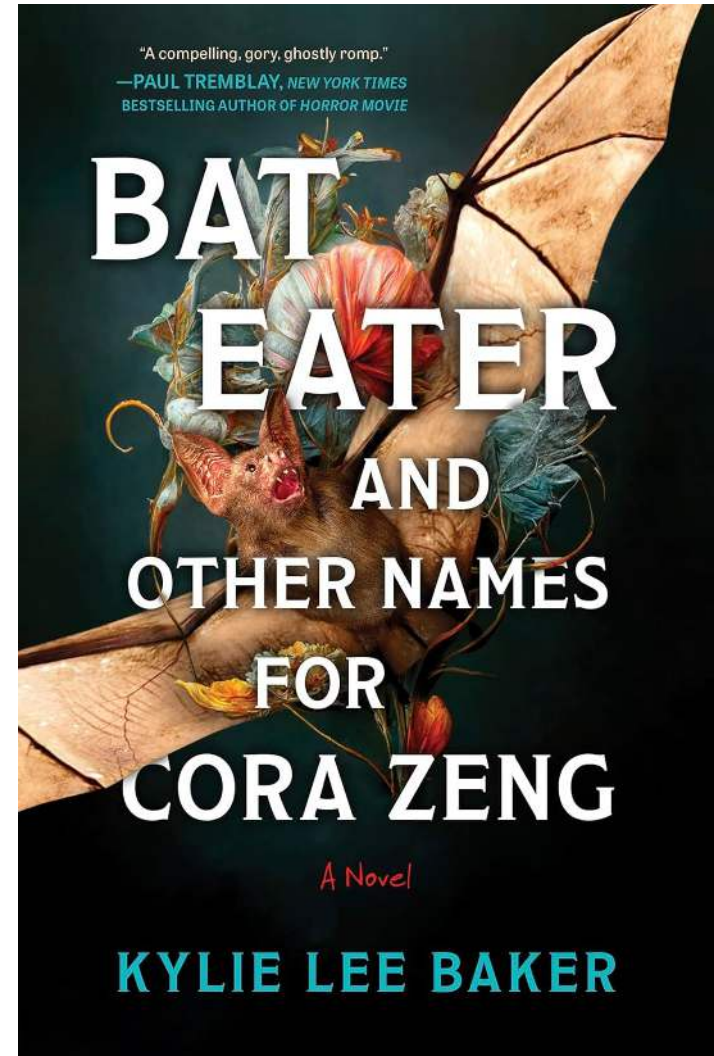
On sale: April 29, 2025

ISBN-13: 9780778368458

\$28.99

Bat Eater and Other Names for Cora Zeng follows a biracial woman haunted by both her own inner trauma and hungry ghosts as she's entangled in a series of murders in NYC's Chinatown.

Parasite meets *The Only Good Indians* in this sharp novel that explores harsh social edges through the lens of the horror genre.



Their Monstrous Hearts

Yiğit Turhan

MIRA

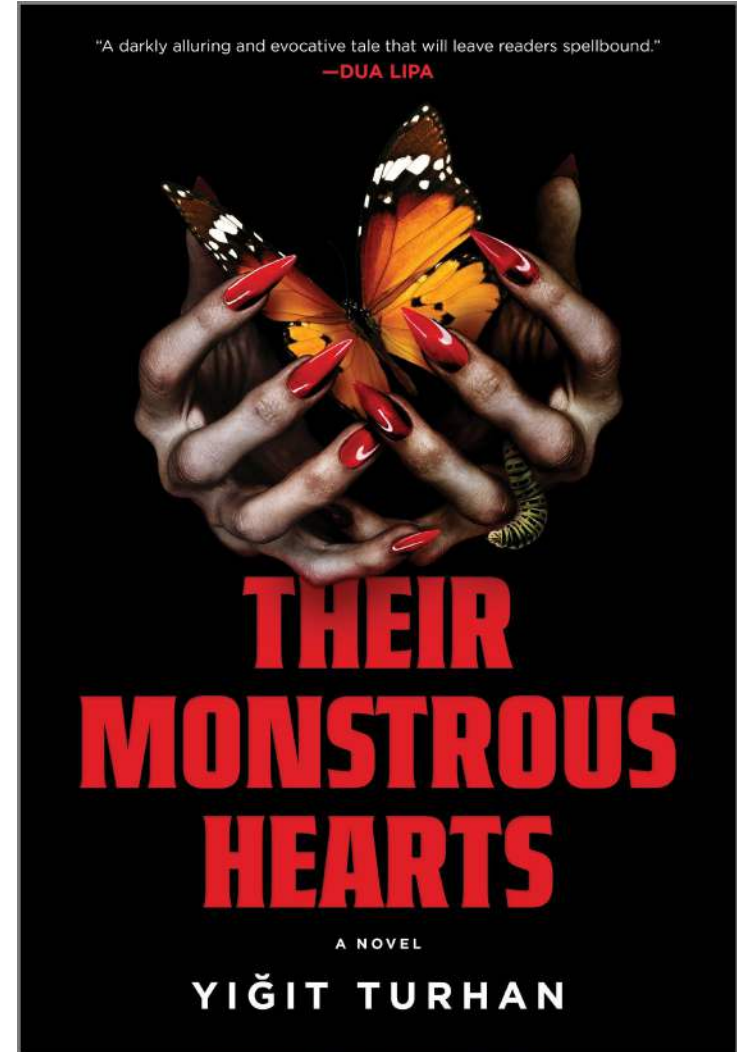
Hardcover

On sale: April 8, 2025

ISBN-13: 9780778368274

\$28.99

For fans of *Mexican Gothic* and *Hereditary*, Yiğit Turhan's *Their Monstrous Hearts* tells the story of a struggling writer who thinks his troubles are over when he inherits his estranged grandmother's villa and her famed butterfly collection, only to realize the crumbling estate is hiding darker secrets than he ever could have imagined.



Midnight in Soap Lake

Matthew Sullivan

Hanover Square Press

Hardcover

On sale: April 15, 2025

ISBN-13: 9781335041791

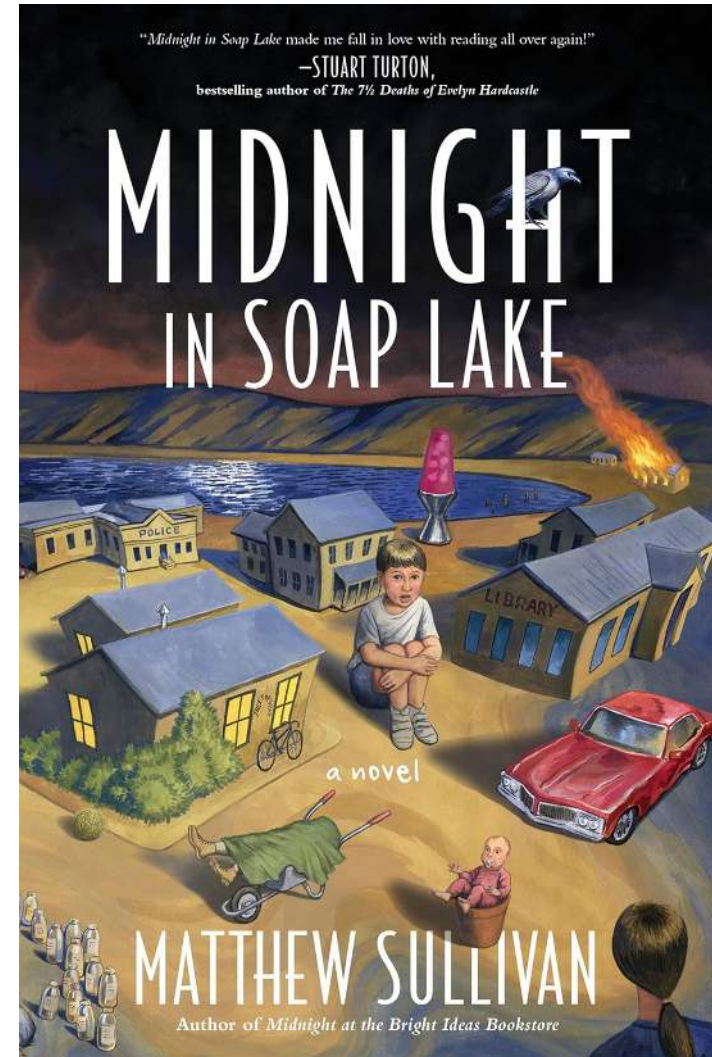
\$28.99

A lake with mysterious properties. A town haunted by urban legend. Two women whose lives intersect in terrifying ways.

Welcome to Soap Lake, a town to rival “Twin Peaks” and Stephen King’s *Castle Rock*.



HANOVER
SQUARE
PRESS



Shoot Your Shot

Lexi LaFleur Brown

Canary Street Press

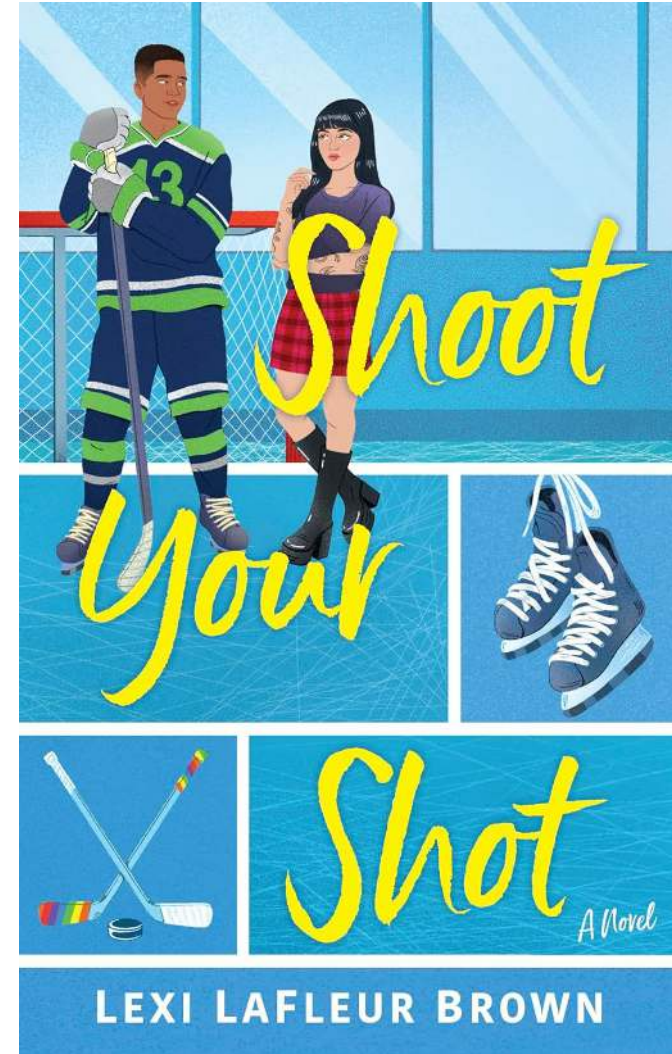
Trade Paperback Original

On sale: March 11, 2025

ISBN-13: 9781335016560

\$18.99

From BookTokker and NHL insider Lexi LaFleur Brown comes a steamy hockey rom-com for fans of *Icebreaker* and *Pucking Wild*, packed with hockey superstitions, queer representation and a big-hearted romance.



The Guilt Pill

Saumya Dave

Park Row Books

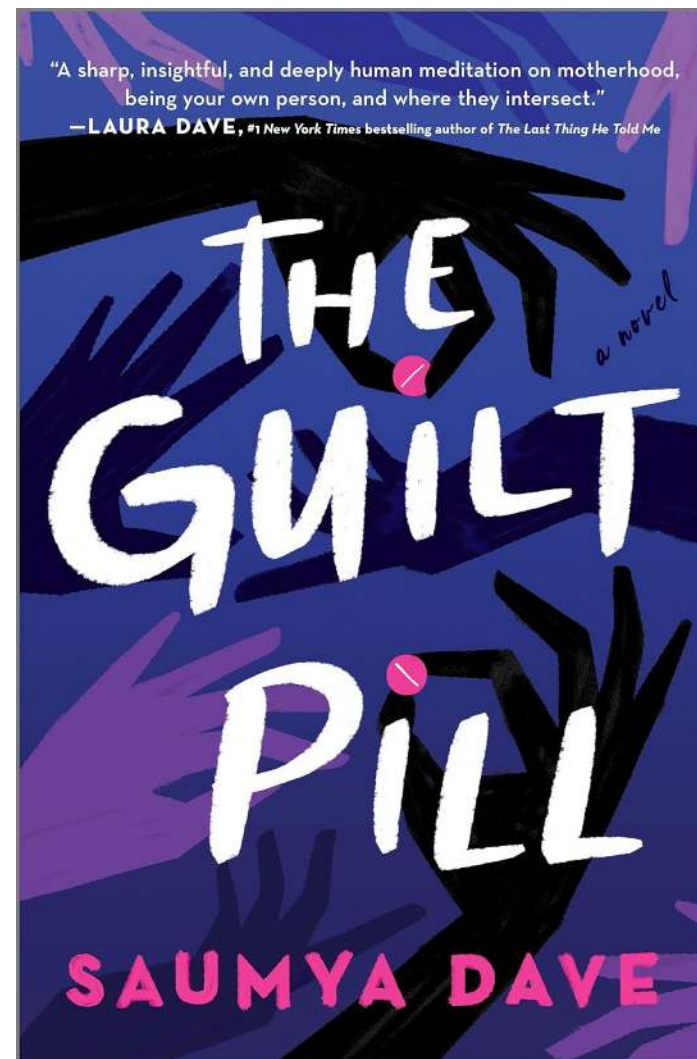
Hardcover

On sale: April 15, 2025

ISBN-13: 9780778368342

\$28.99

The Other Black Girl meets *The Push* in this taut psychological drama about a CEO on maternity leave who goes missing after she becomes addicted to an experimental, guilt-erasing pill, exploring themes of motherhood, privilege, race and how the world treats women who dare to “have it all.”



William Morrow Group



The Float Test

Lynn Steger Strong

Mariner Books

Hardcover

On sale: April 8, 2025

ISBN-13: 9780063390737

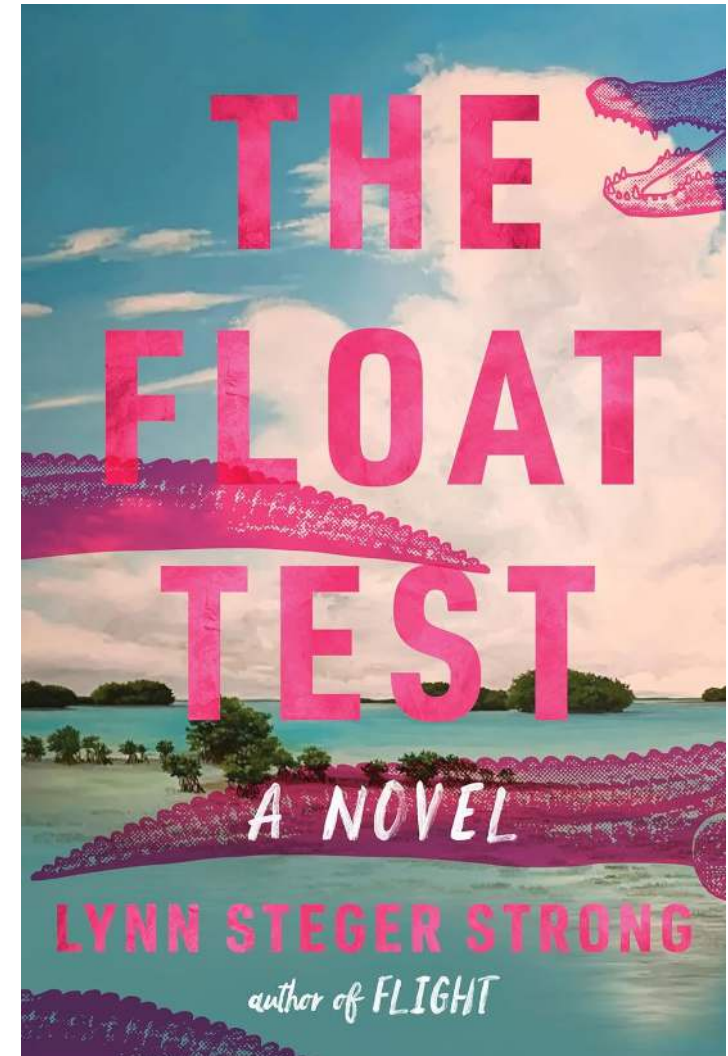
\$28.99

From Lynn Steger Strong, the critically acclaimed author of *Flight*, a sophisticated and layered novel about sisters, betrayal, love and climate change, for readers of *The Dutch House* and *The Most Fun We Ever Had*.

A family story is, of course, only as honest as the person telling it. This family story in particular is fraught with secrets about kids, sex and jobs and why the Kenner matriarch had a gun in her underwear drawer.



**MARINER
BOOKS**



The Boxcar Librarian

Brianna Labuskes

William Morrow Paperbacks

Trade Paperback Original

On sale: March 4, 2025

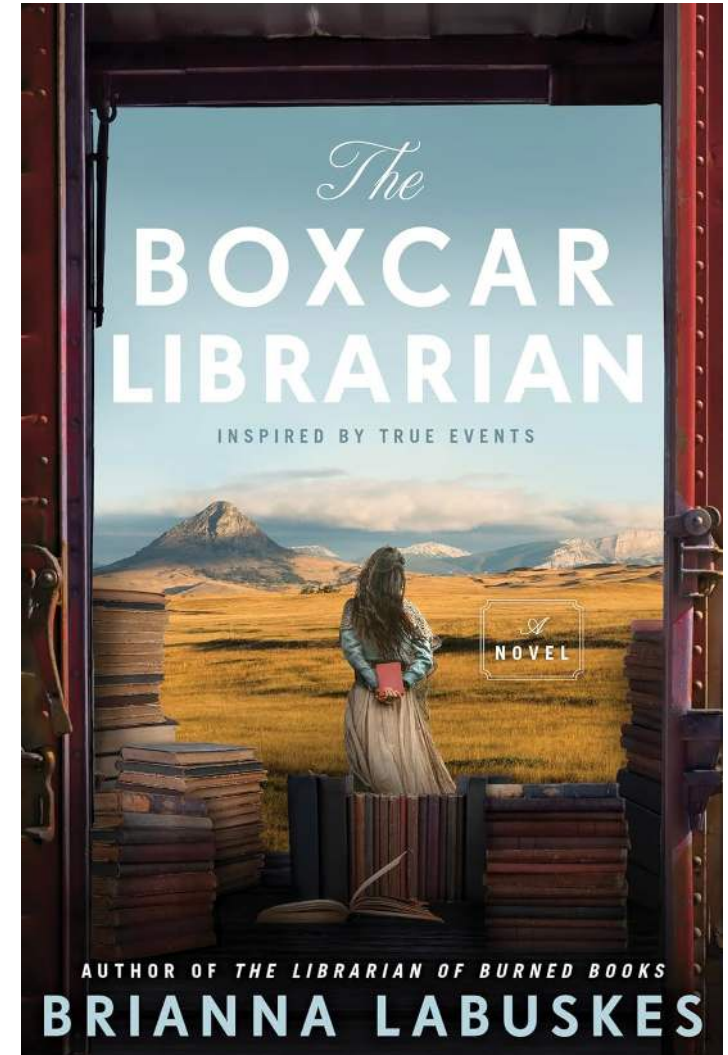
ISBN-13: 9780063376304

\$19.99

A thrilling Depression-era novel from the author of *The Librarian of Burned Books* about a woman's quest to uncover a mystery surrounding a local librarian and the Boxcar Library --- a converted mining train that brought books to isolated rural towns in Montana.

Inspired by the fascinating, true history of Missoula's Boxcar Library, the novel blends the story of the strong, courageous women who survived and thrived in the rough and rowdy West with that of the power of standing together to fight for workers' lives. And through it all shines the capacity of books to provide connection and light to those who need it most.

wm
MORROW



Bloomsbury Publishing



B L O O M S B U R Y

Time of the Child

Niall Williams

Bloomsbury Publishing

Hardcover

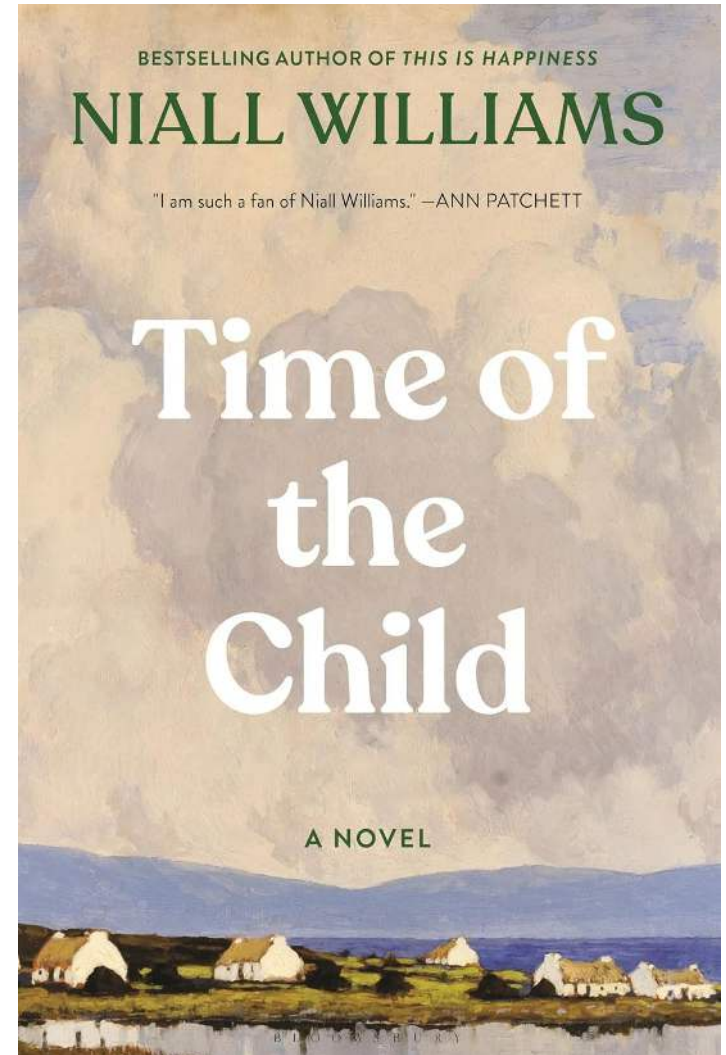
On sale: November 19, 2024

ISBN-13: 9781639734207

\$28.99

From the author of *This Is Happiness*, a compassionate, life-affirming novel about the Christmas season that transforms the small Irish town of Faha.

"I am such a fan of Niall Williams." —Ann Patchett, *New York Times* bestselling author of *Tom Lake*



B L O O M S B U R Y

Mutual Interest

Olivia Wolfgang-Smith

Bloomsbury Publishing

Hardcover

On sale: February 4, 2025

ISBN-13: 9781639733323

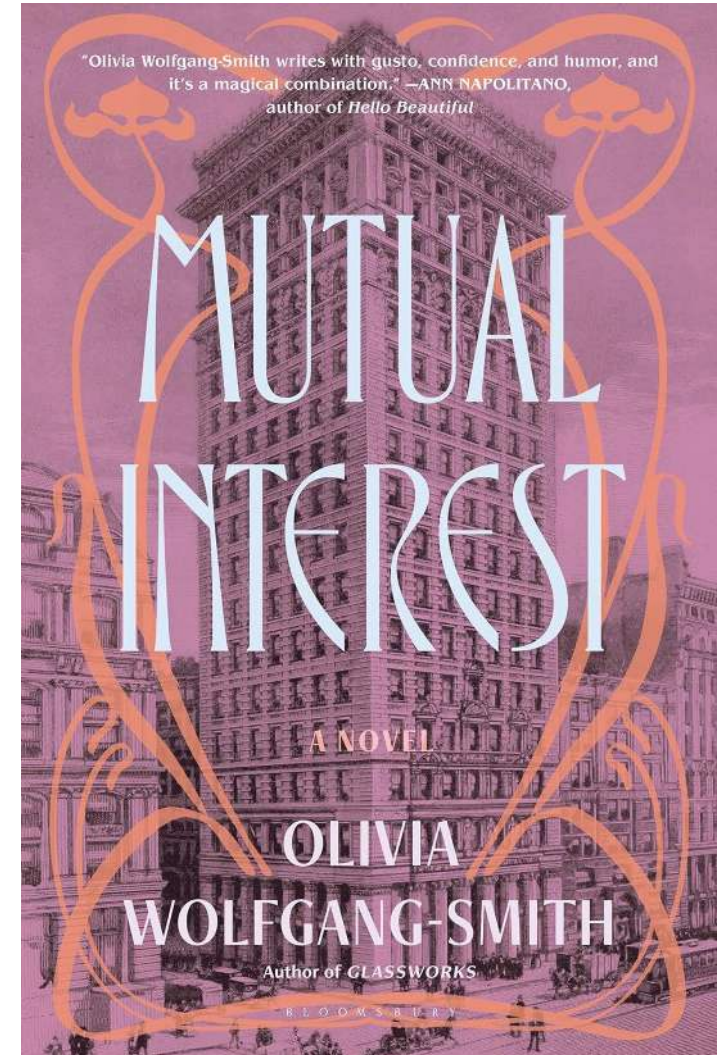
\$28.99

A classic in the making: a mesmerizing novel about marriage and ambition, sexuality and secrecy, and the true costs of building an empire.

"A timeless queer love story and a meditation on power, capitalism, and the flow of history.... This novel is a revelation and a joy." —Anna North, *New York Times* bestselling author of *Outlawed*



B L O O M S B U R Y



The Hymn to Dionysus

Natasha Pulley

Bloomsbury Publishing

Hardcover

On sale: March 18, 2025

ISBN-13: 9781639732364

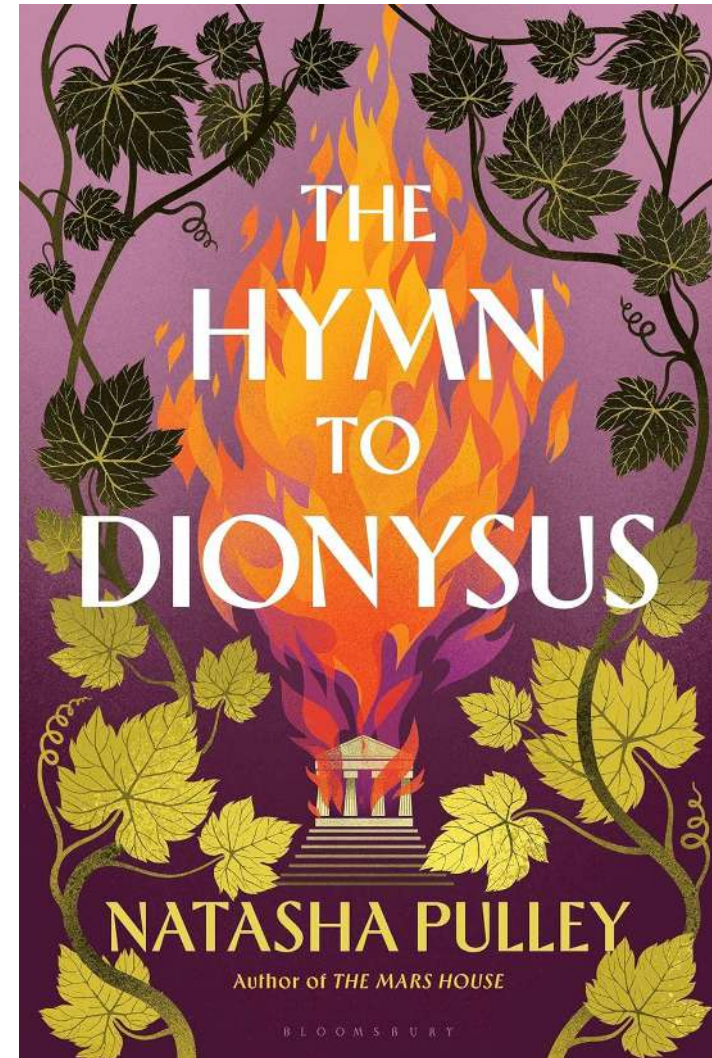
\$29.99

A timely reimagining of the story of Dionysus --- Greek god of ecstasy, revelry and ruin --- and a captivating queer love story for readers of *The Song of Achilles* and *Elektra*.

Bestselling author Natasha Pulley transports readers to an ancient empire on the edge of ruin to tell a tender, magical and action-packed tale about a man needing a god to remind him how to be a human.



B L O O M S B U R Y



Random House Publishing Group



RANDOM
HOUSE

Isola

Allegra Goodman

The Dial Press

Hardcover

On sale: January 21, 2025

ISBN-13: 9780593730089

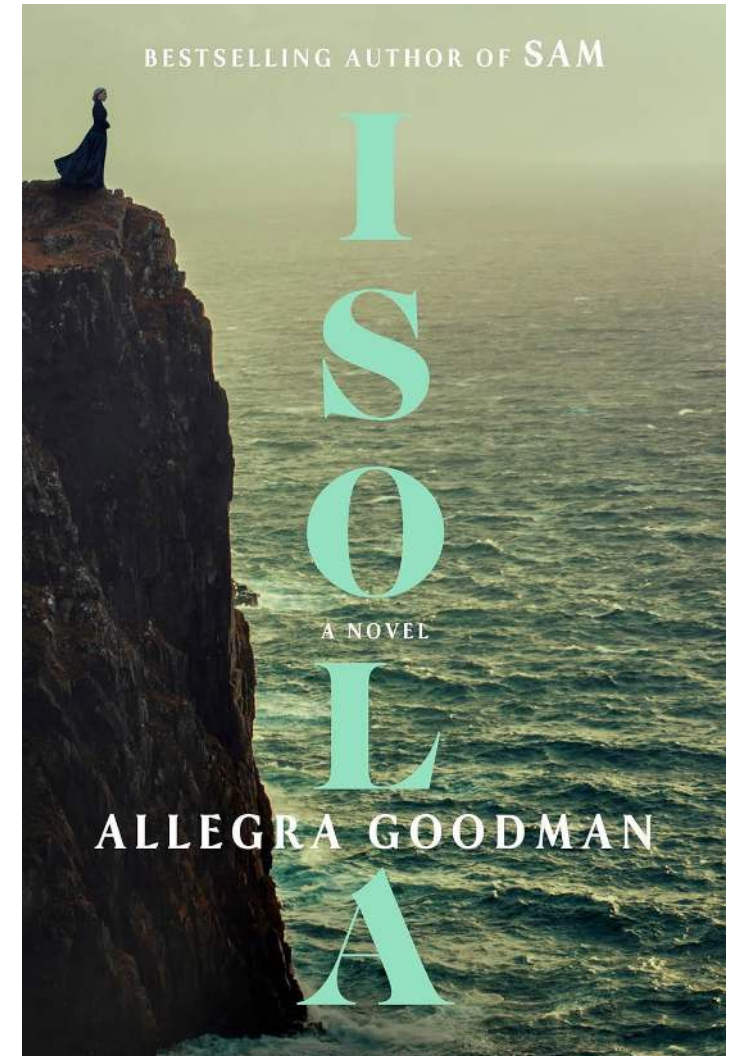
\$28.99

A young woman and her lover are marooned on an island in this breathtaking saga, an epic story of love, faith and defiance from the bestselling author of *Sam*

“A shocking story, made all the more stunning by the fact that it has its roots in true history.” —Jodi Picoult, author of *By Any Other Name*



THE DIAL
PRESS



Good Dirt

Charmaine Wilkerson

Ballantine Books

Hardcover

On sale: January 28, 2025

ISBN-13: 9780593358368

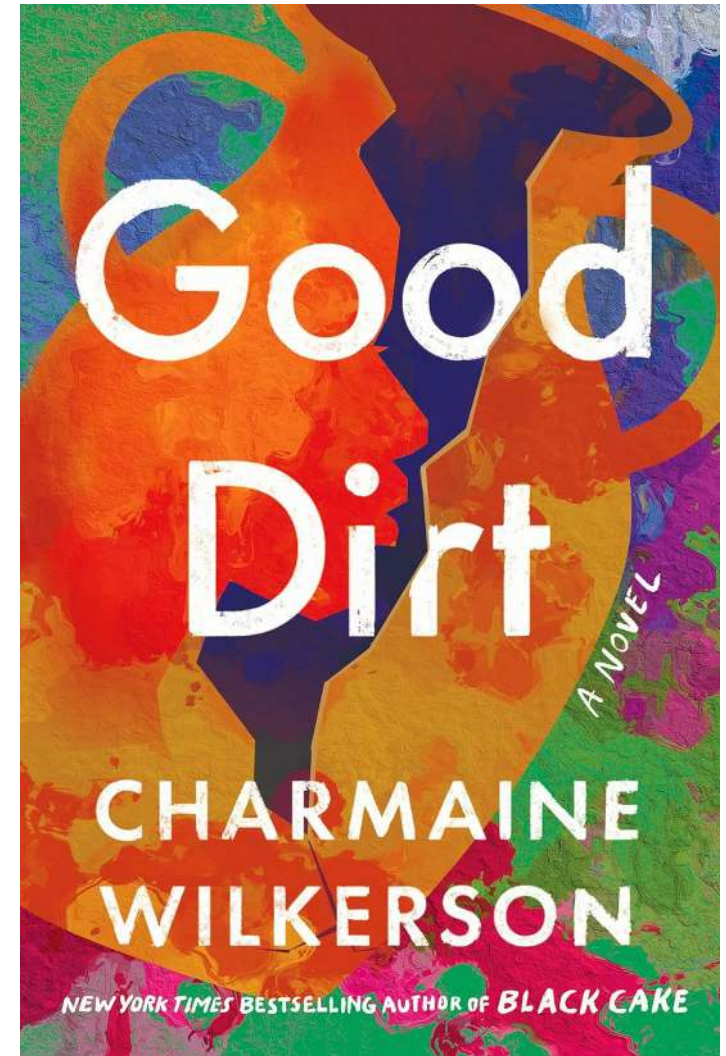
\$30.00

The daughter of an affluent Black family pieces together the connection between a childhood tragedy and a beloved heirloom in this moving novel from the *New York Times* bestselling author of *Black Cake*, a Read with Jenna Book Club Pick

In this sweeping, evocative novel, Charmaine Wilkerson brings to life a multi-generational epic that examines how the past informs our present.



**BALLANTINE
BOOKS**



Junie

Erin Crosby Eckstine

Ballantine Books

Hardcover

On sale: February 4, 2025

ISBN-13: 9780593725115

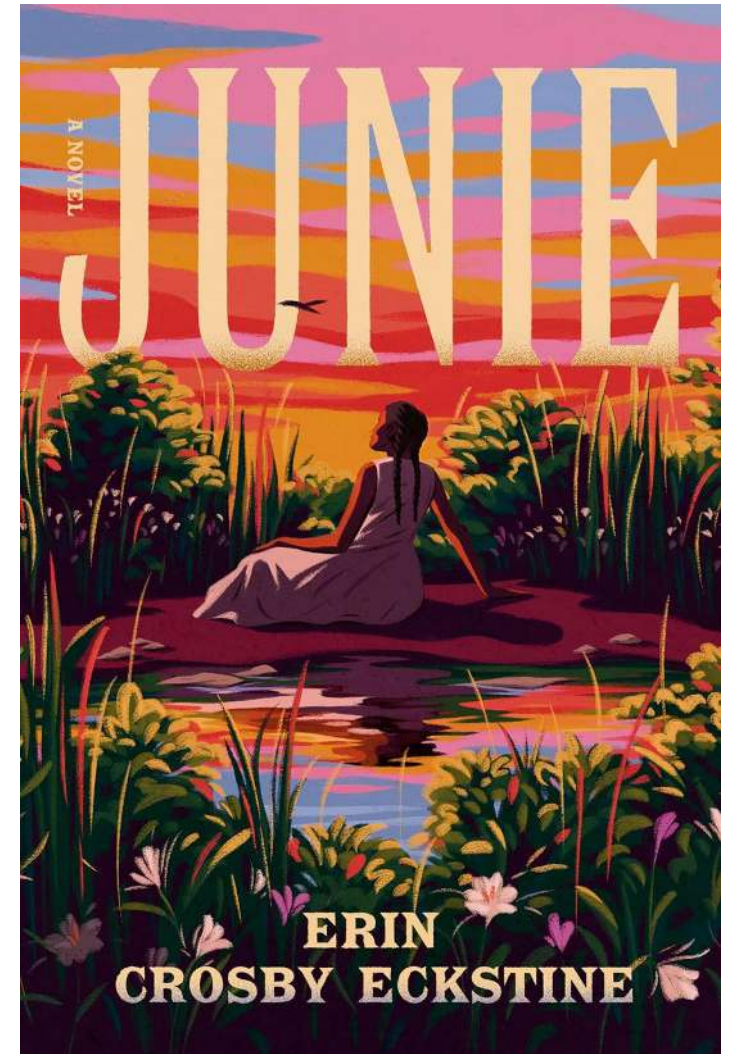
\$30.00

A young girl must face a life-altering decision after awakening her sister's ghost, navigating truths about love, friendship and power as the Civil War looms.

"The richly textured prose quickly pulled me into [Junie's] treacherous yet magical world."
—Charmaine Wilkerson, *New York Times* bestselling author of *Black Cake*



**BALLANTINE
BOOKS**



My Name Is Emilia del Valle

Isabel Allende

Ballantine Books

Hardcover

On sale: May 6, 2025

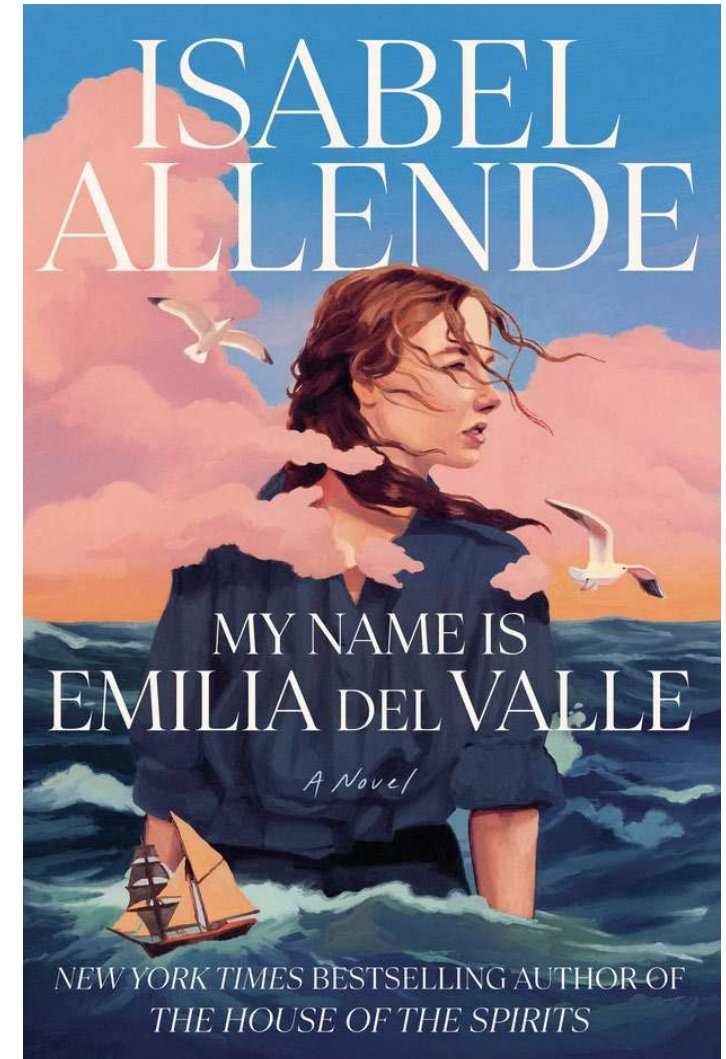
ISBN-13: 9780593975091

\$30.00

In this spellbinding historical novel from the *New York Times* bestselling author of *A Long Petal of the Sea* and *The House of the Spirits*, a young writer journeys to South America to uncover the truth about her father --- and herself.



**BALLANTINE
BOOKS**



W. W. Norton & Company



W. W. NORTON & COMPANY

Independent Publishers Since 1923

Taking Manhattan

Russell Shorto

W. W. Norton & Company

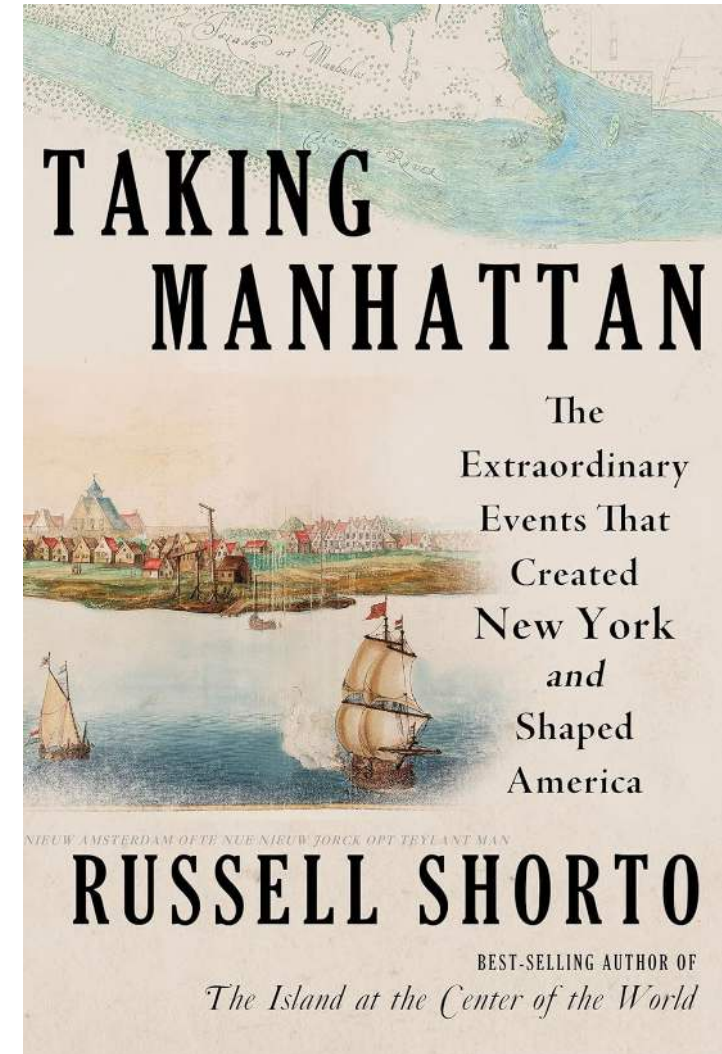
Hardcover

On sale: March 4, 2025

ISBN-13: 9780393881165

\$29.99

Bristling with vibrant characters, *Taking Manhattan* reveals the founding of New York to be an invention: the result not of an English military takeover but of clever negotiations that led to a fusion of the multiethnic capitalistic society the Dutch had pioneered to the power of the rising English empire. But the birth of what might be termed the first modern city is also a story of the brutal dispossession of Native Americans and of the roots of American slavery.



Beta Vulgaris

Margie Sarsfield

W. W. Norton & Company

Trade Paperback Original

On sale: February 11, 2025

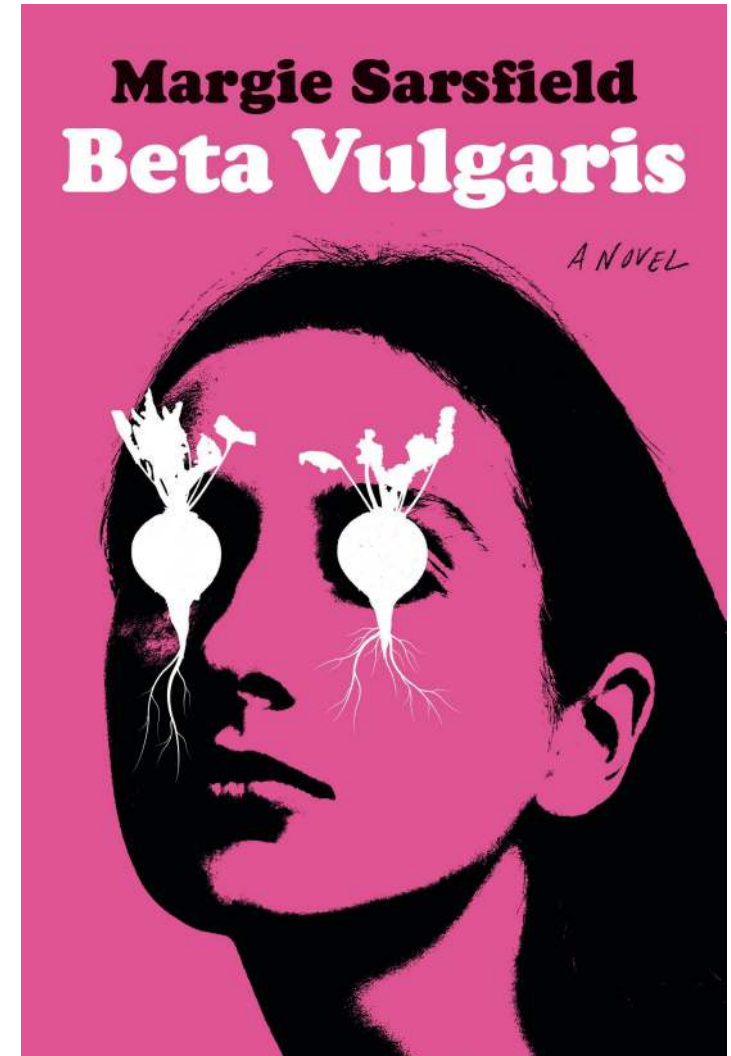
ISBN-13: 9781324078739

\$18.99

Elise and her boyfriend, Tom, set off for Minnesota, hoping the paycheck from the sugar beet harvest will cover the rent on their Brooklyn apartment. Amidst the grueling work and familiar anxieties about her finances, Elise starts noticing strange things: threatening phone calls, a mysterious rash, and snatches of an ominous voice coming from the beet pile.



NORTON



Terrestrial History

Joe Mungo Reed

W. W. Norton & Company

Hardcover

On sale: April 8, 2025

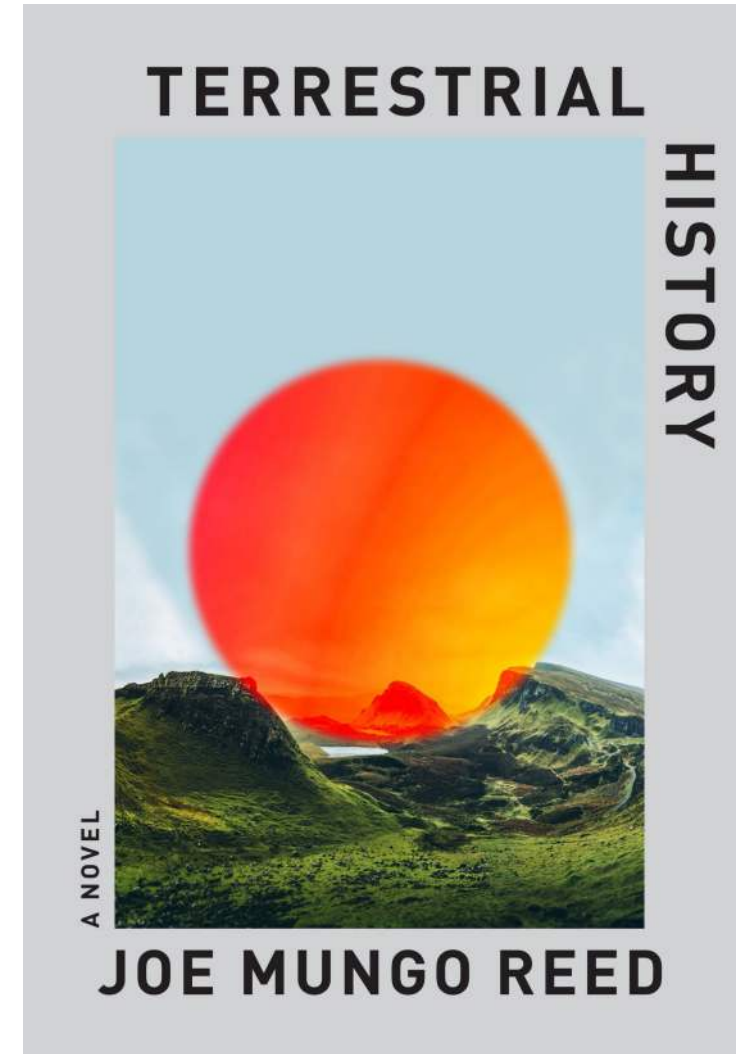
ISBN-13: 9781324079378

\$29.99

A family saga following four generations on a time-bending journey from coastal Scotland to a colony on Mars. Hannah is a fusion scientist working in a cottage off the coast of Scotland when she's approached by a visitor from the future, a young man from a human settlement on Mars, traveling backward through time to intervene in the fate of a warming planet.



NORTON



Atria Books



Friends of the Museum

Heather McGowan

Washington Square Press

Hardcover

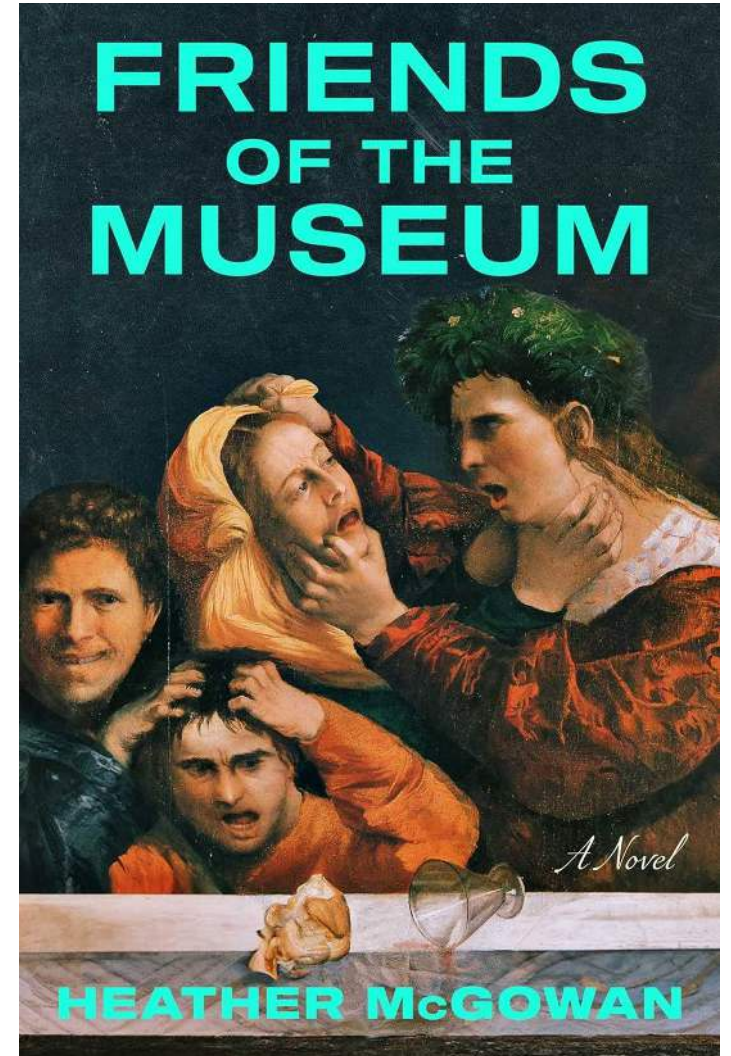
On sale: April 15, 2025

ISBN-13: 9781668031278

\$29.99

Coworkers at a legendary but troubled New York City museum struggle with issues large and small over the course of one extraordinary day in this whip-smart “marvel” (Mona Awad, bestselling author of *Bunny*) of a novel in the vein of “The White Lotus.”

**ATRIA
BOOKS**



Simon & Schuster



**SIMON &
SCHUSTER**

Heartwood

Amity Gaige

Simon & Schuster

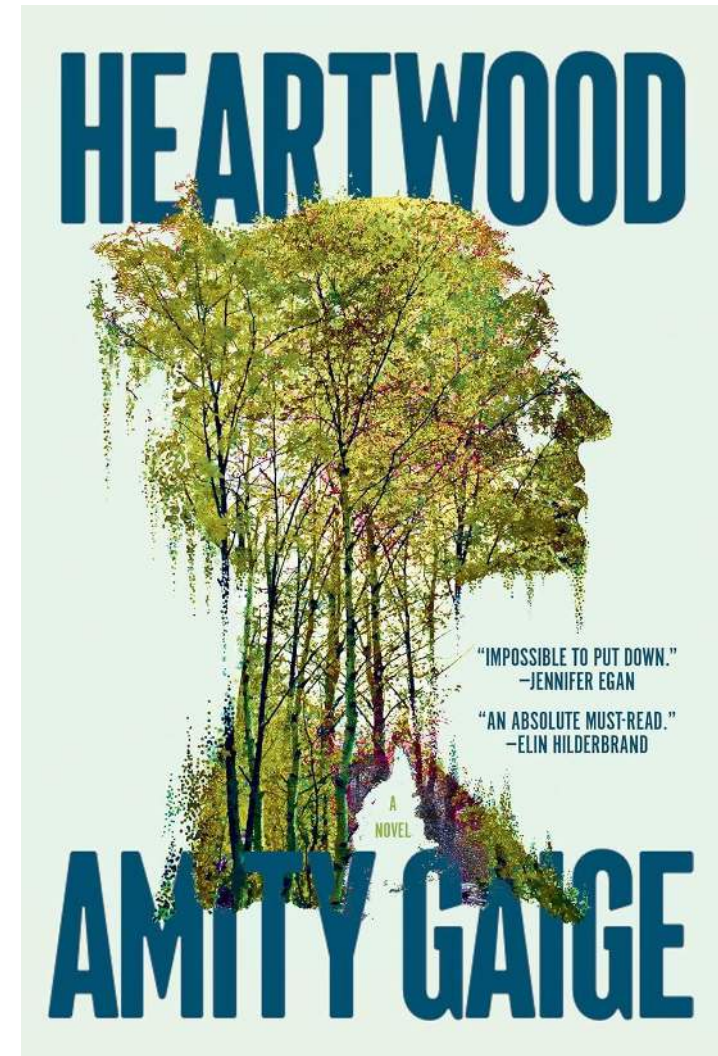
Hardcover

On sale: April 1, 2025

ISBN-13: 9781668063606

\$28.99

“A riveting wilderness suspense novel by a novelist at the height of her powers” (Jennifer Egan, Pulitzer Prize–winning author of *The Candy House*), *Heartwood* takes you on a gripping journey as a search and rescue team race against time when an experienced hiker mysteriously disappears on the Appalachian Trail in Maine.



Aftertaste

Daria Lavelle

Simon & Schuster

Hardcover

On sale: May 20, 2025

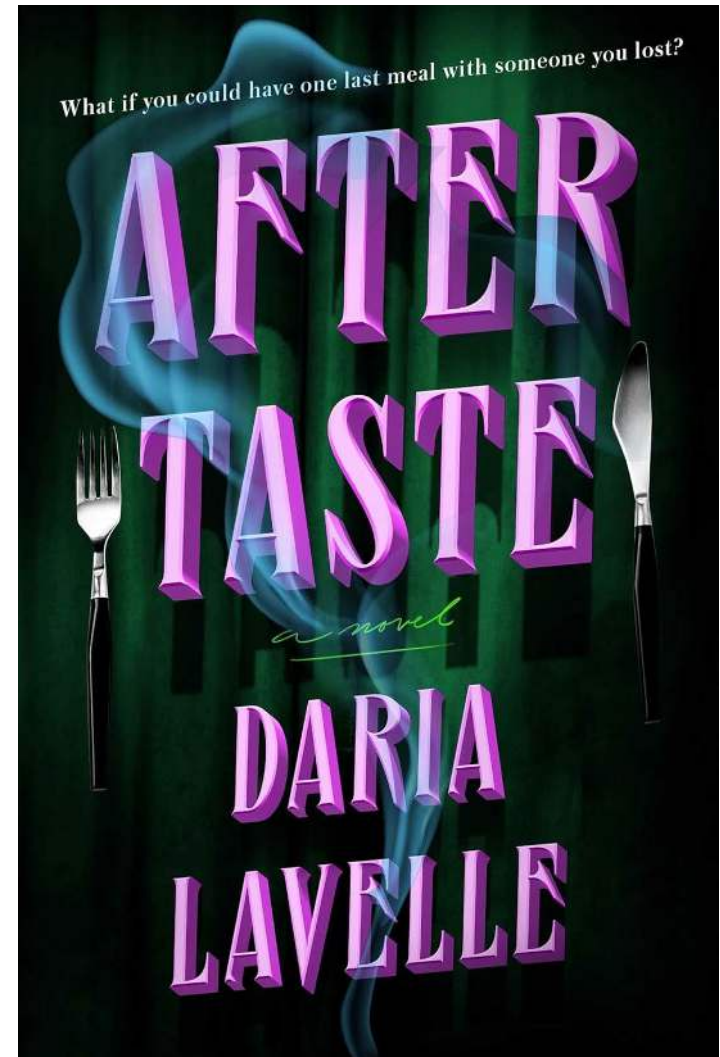
ISBN-13: 9781668061596

\$28.99

What if you could have one last meal with someone you've loved, someone you've lost? Combining the magic of *Under the Whispering Door* with the high-stakes culinary world of *Sweetbitter*, *Aftertaste* is an epic love story, a dark comedy, and a synesthetic adventure through food and grief.



**SIMON &
SCHUSTER**



Reading Group Guides

A WEBSITE FROM THE BOOK REPORT NETWORK

Thank you for viewing this presentation.

**We look forward to seeing you at our
14th Annual Book Group Speed Dating event
in May 2025!**

**BOOK
GROUP**

**SPEED
DATING**