



2024 LONDON FOREIGN RIGHTS LIST: HIGHLIGHTS

Jennifer Lyons Literary Agency,
LLC

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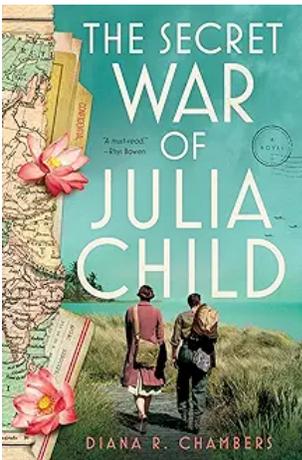
FICTION

After studying Asian Art History at university, **Diana R. Chambers** worked at a Paris translation agency, and later began an importing business in South Asia. She is an experienced scriptwriter and has published several novels.

THE SECRET WAR OF JULIA CHILD

Diana R. Chambers

Sourcebooks/Landmark (World English) October 2024



- commercial women's fiction, sold at auction
- the story you never knew about the woman who taught America to cook
- a story of adventure and romance on the Asian frontlines of World War II

It's a little-known fact that before she became America's first television cooking star, Julia Child worked in the secrets trade in Asia during World War II.

Single, 6 foot 2, and thirty 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 the Far East, to Asia's remote frontlines 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 World War II spy station who has no idea of the impact she'll eventually impart. Her journey will delight both historical fiction fans and lovers of America's most beloved chef.

Agent: Pamela Malpas/JLLA

Materials Available: edited manuscript

Rights sold: all translation rights available

PRAISE for Diana R. Chambers:

“An exciting, little-known reveal of the story behind Julia Child’s WWII service, showing her resilience and bravery in the spy world as well as giving fascinating insights into the war being waged in Asia. A must read.” – Rhys Bowen, bestselling author of *The Paris Apartment*

“You’ll fall in love with Julia all over again, and with this tantalizing novel.” – Nina Schuyler, award-winning author of *The Translator*

Excerpt from THE SECRET WAR OF JULIA CHILD:

It was already hot in the postage-stamp studio she’d been lucky to find in overcrowded Washington. When she leaned over the sink to push up the window, a blast of humid air bounced off the dawn-streaked alley wall, almost near enough to touch. A long diagonal crack down the bricks reminded her of the Italian coastline, those valiant fellows preparing to wade out of their landing craft into the Salerno surf—and the unknown. Last night, she’d learned of Italy’s imminent surrender, but also of German forces massing outside Rome.

She sniffed. Coffee boiled is coffee spoiled, their cook often declared. Turning to the hotplate, she sniffed again. Burnt toast. “Oh, my.”

Mother Caro used to say she could burn water, but with such tenderness Julia felt embraced rather than criticized. Feeling the warmth of her smile, she closed her eyes. With your bright future, Jukie, you need never step into a kitchen. You’ll be too busy to cook.

She dropped the toast in the waste bin. Fortunately, the OSS cafeteria produced delicious, deep-fried doughnuts.

~

“Scuttlebutt I picked up last night at Hotel Galle is there’s some rivalry between US and British clandestine services.” Jane zipped her lips.

“Whoever fed you that line obviously had too much to drink.” Julia looked into her glass. “Speaking of which, I could use a refill.”

“Me, too.” Jane raised her hand for the waiter, surveying the attractive males. “A pity you’re married, Betty.”

“If you knew Alex you wouldn’t say that,” she replied coolly.

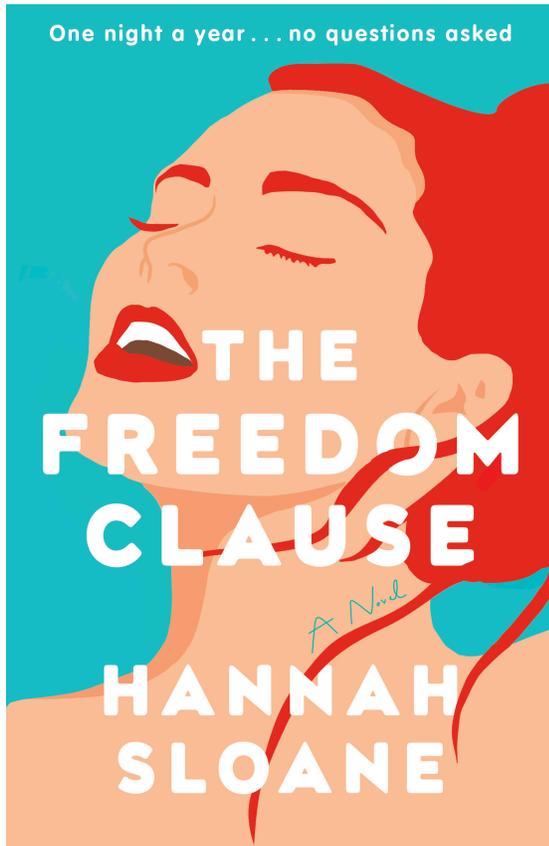
Jane smiled. “Well, Julia might get lucky.”

Sometimes she could smack her. As a fragrant breeze wafted through the open doors, moist but pleasant, skin warm, a couple splashed around the swimming pool, tossing a ball and laughing. Betty’s husband was chasing down intel in the Burmese jungles, while they were drinking cool gin-and-tonics, cosseted in colonial luxury.

But Julia had her own intel to pursue. Intel that might inform the decisions of the President of the United States. She pushed her drink aside.

THE FREEDOM CLAUSE

Hannah Sloane



Description: A thinking woman's beach read – about a couple who worry they've found true love too soon, so decide to open their marriage up for one night a year for 5 years, and how this changes their relationship and their lives in unexpected ways.

Editor: Emma Caruso

Agent: Jessica Felleman

Publication Date: July 25, 2023

Manuscript Available: Final

Word Count: 82,000 words

What happens if you find your true love too soon? Could one night off a year save your marriage—or destroy it? In this bold and sexy debut, a young couple discovers that a little freedom has surprising consequences.

"A delicious novel ... Nora Ephron fans will delight in this debut." - Amanda Eyre Ward

One of July 2023's Best New Books

– [The New York Post](#)

"*The Freedom Clause* is a carefully-observed story of a contemporary marriage, and ... a fascinating character study and an exploration of intimacy." – [Vol. 1 Brooklyn](#)

Rights Sold: USCOM (Dial Press), German (Lubbe)

Rights Available: UK, Translation

Film Co-Agent: APA; Debbie Deubel-Hill, shopping agreement in place with Keri Selig

Author Biography:

Hannah Sloane grew up in England. She read History at the University of Bristol. She holds dual citizenship and lives in Brooklyn with her partner, Sam. *THE FREEDOM CLAUSE* is her debut novel.

Selected Praise/Blurbs:

"The Freedom Clause is a carefully-observed story of a contemporary marriage, and the decision by both parties to make an open one, with several notable caveats. What follows is a fascinating character study and an exploration of intimacy." – *Vol. 1 Brooklyn*

"The Freedom Clause is a bold, honest examination of a young marriage that hooked me from its first page. Creative in concept, rich in self-discovery, and written with warmth and nuance, Sloane's is a saucy and smart debut you won't want to miss." – Carola Lovering, author of *Tell Me Lies* and *Can't Look Away*

"The Freedom Clause is a delicious novel featuring rich, complex characters exploring deep questions: How can we love fully and remain true to ourselves? What happens when lovers bound by marriage try one night of freedom per year? I couldn't put the book down and cheered at the perfect conclusion. Nora Ephron fans will delight in this debut." Amanda Eyre Ward, *New York Times* bestselling author of *The Jetsetters*

"An honest, empowering, and sexy tale of a young woman finding her voice, finding her strength, and finding great orgasms along the way." - Taylor Hahn, author of The Lifestyle

"You'll want second helpings of this delectable, sexy debut about a woman learning how to prioritize her pleasure. I ate it right up" - Courtney Maum, author of The Year of the Horses

"A raw and propulsive portrait of a marriage on the brink, Sloane's novel is fun, surprising, and nuanced—Daphne and Dominic are lovable yet imperfect, and Sloane reveals their human foibles with compassion and insight. The Freedom Clause will expand your perspective on what true fulfillment can look like, as well as offer an exciting, unique bonus: delicious recipes!" - Caitlin Barasch, author of A Novel Obsession

"As surprising as the proposal itself, The Freedom Clause is a beautifully written, deep dive into marriage and the critical importance of finding one's own voice. This novel is an emotional journey that reads like a thriller - I couldn't put it down." - Annabel Monaghan, author of Nora Goes Off Script

Sample:

Dominic isn't expecting to meet the best thing to ever happen to him during his first week of university.

He sees her in his first lecture. On Chaucer. Female characters defy the patriarchal order, the lecturer explains, they hold all the sexual power. A hand flies up. A woman in the front row, a meticulous note

taker, questions this theory: “What about Griselda who serves her husband in preparation for his wedding to a new bride?”

Her voice is calm and quiet, appealing. Dominic’s eyes drift to her hair. Ruby red, unapologetic and defiant. Her features are soft and willowy, enchanting.

Smiling, the lecturer says: “At least one of you took my summer reading list seriously.”

The theater erupts. The girl is embarrassed, clearly, her ears turning a deep shade of red that matches her hair. Dominic doesn’t expect her to speak again.

“As seriously,” she says in a calm tone, “as one can take a reading list that’s one hundred per cent white male authors.”

The cackling stops, the auditorium grows uncomfortably quiet. Did she really just go there? Dominic’s mouth drops a fraction. He thinks about her for the rest of the day.

Cover Copy:

Dominic and Daphne met in their first week of college, and they've been happily married for three years. They love each other deeply but perhaps have become *too* comfortable, and their sex life isn't what anyone would call thrilling. So, on New Year's Day, Dominic blurts out a suggestion before it's fully worked out in his mind: what if they open up their marriage?

Daphne agrees--with conditions. They can sleep with one other person, one night a year, and the agreement has a five-year expiration date. It's not a total free-for-all on their vows, but an amendment. They call it the Freedom Clause.

It isn't long before Daphne and Dominic find themselves--and their marriage--altered in unexpected ways. Embracing the spirit of the Clause, Daphne pushes herself to be more assertive in asking for what she wants. She begins chronicling her journey of self-discovery in an anonymous newsletter, sharing recipes inspired by her conquests, and soon realizes that one night off a year isn't a small change . . . it's a seismic one.

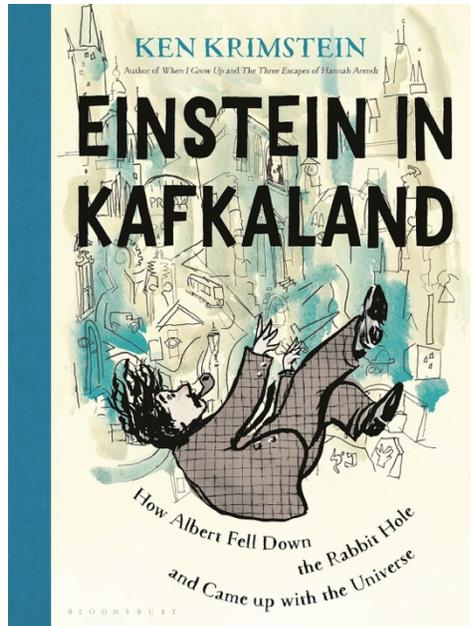
Eventually, Daphne and Dominic are reconsidering everything--each other, their relationship, and themselves. Can they survive the Freedom Clause? Do they even want to?

NONFICTION

EINSTEIN IN KAFKALAND: How Albert Fell Down the Rabbit Hole and Came up with the Universe

Ken Krimstein

Forthcoming from Bloomsbury, Spring 2024



The author describes it as "a graphic narrative thought experiment."

Description:

For 16 months between 1911 and 1912 Albert Einstein and Franz Kafka rubbed shoulders in Prague and ended up changing the world. But neither of them knew it at the time. In fact the Einstein of 1911 and the Kafka of 1911 would be barely recognizable to us today. Einstein, fresh from quitting the patent office was 32 years old with two young kids and a big hole in his theory of relativity, a hole that went by the name of gravity.

Kafka, a rising insurance executive, was still living at home with his parents and largely unpublished. Nevertheless they ran into each other on several occasions and although the

conversations between them have never been recorded this book, *EINSTEIN IN KAFKALAND* takes the historical facts and fills them in with images and metaphors from the time to show how by the time Einstein's train pulls out of Prague on July 25, 1912, he has come up with the key to solving gravity as he put it called the most significant theory ever developed by one person. And Kafka has reinvented literature, writing his first acknowledged masterpiece, *The Judgment*. With striking painted illustrations and dynamic narration, *EINSTEIN IN KAFKALAND* uses the power of graphic narrative to show how art and science became one in a charmed space and time, with pictures and words and facts and wit and thought experiment. And with no Math!

Agent: Jennifer Lyons

Materials Available: Draft of *Einstein in Kafkaland*.

Rights Sold for Einstein in Kafkaland:

World English sold to **Bloomsbury**. German rights sold to **Kjona Verlag GmbH**. Spanish World Rights sold to **Penguin Random House Grupo Editorial, S. A. U.** The Jennifer Lyons Literary Agency has the translation rights.

Author Biography:

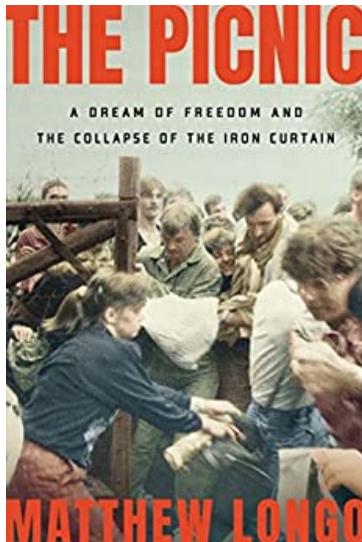
Ken Krimstein is the author of *The Three Escapes of Hannah Arendt*, a graphic book from Bloomsbury, which sold to eleven countries. See backlist addendum for full list. He has published cartoons in *The New Yorker*, *Punch*, *The Wall Street Journal*, and more. He has written for *New York Observer's* "New Yorker's Diary" and has published pieces on websites including *McSweeney's Internet Tendency*, *Yankee Pot Roast*, and *Mr. Beller's Neighborhood*. He is the author of *Kvetch as Kvetch Can*, and teaches at De Paul University and the School of the Art Institute of Chicago. He lives in Evanston, Illinois. *Einstein*, a graphic bio, is in progress.

[Matthew Longo](#), Ph.D. is Assistant Professor of Political Science at Leiden University (Netherlands). His *The Politics of Borders: Sovereignty, Security, and the Citizen after 9/11* (Cambridge Univ. Press, 2018), won the Charles Taylor Book Award from the American Political Science Association. His work has been published in *Politico*, *Los Angeles Review of Books*, *The Nation*, *New York Times*, and *Los Angeles Times*.

THE PICNIC: The Dream of Freedom and the Collapse of the Iron Curtain

Matthew B. Longo

W.W. Norton (US, Canada, OM) November 2023



- “Longo’s engrossing and dramatic book adds a new, captivating chapter to the history of the Cold War.” –*New Statesman*
- “A pivotal – and exhilarating – moment in late 20th-century history . . . gripping” – *The Observer*
- “brisk and engaging” – *The Guardian*
- “a little gem of a book” – *Sunday Times*
- “the chain of events in 1989 and its historical context are outlined with clarity and verve” – *The Daily Telegraph*
- a *New York Times* Editors’ Choice
- on *Kirkus Reviews*’ list of Best Nonfiction of 2023
- on *Slate*’s list of Best Books of 2023
- Junior Library Guild bookclub selection

Three decades ago, the Berlin Wall fell, the Iron Curtain collapsed, and the world order shifted from its bipolar axis. Many things played a part in this momentous change -- the relentless pressure of progress, the crumbling Soviet economy, the influence of Gorbachev -- but as political philosopher Matthew Longo argues, it started with something much simpler: a picnic.

In 1989, a handful of people had the audacity to organize a gathering on the Austro-Hungarian border; government officials chose to look the other way, and a group of desperate East Germans seized an opportunity: the Pan-European Picnic became the greatest breach of the border in Cold War history, and the snag that would lead to the unraveling of the Iron Curtain.

Longo examines the history of the event, and its effects, profiles the key players in the drama, interviews families who fled the East and those who returned there, and interrogates the issues of borders, migration, and security that define our present political moment. The story of the picnic isn’t just about the rush to freedom – the end of one era and the beginning of another – but something larger that prefigures the world we live in now: a moment of ideological fracture we are still experiencing.

Agent: Pamela Malpas/JLLA

Materials Available: e-galley, finished book

Rights sold: UK & Commonwealth (Bodley Head, sold at auction), Hungarian (Rubicon)

All other translation rights available.

Film/tv rights via Judi Farkas Management

PRAISE FOR *The Picnic*:

“An elegantly crafted account of an extraordinary but largely forgotten August 1989 gathering...[Longo] quickly proves himself an unusual sort of political scientist, evincing a philosophical bent, a gift for poetic turns of phrase, and a knack for gaining the trust of widely varying interview subjects...‘The Picnic’ illuminates the curious alchemy through which structural forces, personalities, contingency, minor miscalculations, and lucky little choices can combine to lead to unusual results.” – *Boston Globe*

“a vivid, fast-paced narrative... [that] never lacks verve” – *New York Times*

“The true charm of Mr. Longo’s book, and its greatest historical value, lies in his accounts of ordinary citizens—mostly East German—who sought to throw off their Communist shackles by fleeing west at great personal peril. We also owe him a debt for resuscitating the Picnic, now “largely omitted from history books, pushed aside by the macroscopic politics of the end of the Cold War.” – *Wall Street Journal*

“Extensively documented, well written, and thoughtful in its consideration of what freedom means, this book is an informative and engaging history of the event, its origins, and the aftermath. A much-needed reminder of the inexhaustibility of the human quest for personal and collective freedom.” -- *Kirkus* starred review

“stunning ... heart-wrenching ... impressive ... This captivating narrative brings an underreported Cold War turning point into focus.”—*Publishers Weekly*

“Brilliantly researched and endlessly fascinating ... a compulsive and compelling read!” – Giles Milton, author of *Checkmate in Berlin*

"A fascinating reconstruction of the extraordinary moment in 1989 when the spontaneous actions and inactions of a few individuals made history swing wide open on its hinges... With the gifts of a fine documentarian, Longo makes that great moment of collective hopes newly vivid, and the extent to which those hopes remain unfulfilled freshly urgent." -- Philip Gourevitch, author of *We Wish to Inform You that Tomorrow We Will Be Killed with Our Families*

"The most brilliant history allows an experience either forgotten or missed to feel close and vivid—as if we were there. Longo’s writing reanimates the heady days of freedom of 1989 and reflects on what was missed in that extraordinary year." -- Samuel Moyn, author of *Humane*

"A compelling, poignant, beautifully textured retelling of the collapse of communism in Central Europe through the personal ordeals... of its participants -- culminating in a heartfelt rethinking of the meaning of 1989 for the world today." -- Stephen Holmes, co-author of *The Light that Failed: Why the West Is Losing the Fight for Democracy*

“A gem of a book, filled with timely and compelling insights into the power of ordinary people and the limitations of authoritarianism.” – Clarissa Ward, CNN's chief international correspondent, author of *On All Fronts: The Education of a Journalist*

Excerpt from THE PICNIC:

The press conference was held under the cloak of a cloud-thick sky, with journalists transported in specially for the occasion. As spectacles go, the May 2nd event was a muted one – there was only so much the Nemeth government [of Hungary] could do without the [Communist] Party catching wind.

It was dramatic nevertheless: a circuit-breaker was pulled, a bit of electrical wiring rolled up. Rows of border guards, young men in dark green uniforms with white, heavy-duty gloves and large wire clippers, made their way across the stretch of fencing, snipping the wires from their concrete posts, and rolling them up into bundles, like metal bushels of hay.

The audience was sparse, but the message was clear: from that day forward, the current that made the Iron Curtain so deadly, would be switched off.

This sent a shockwave around the world – including within the Hungarian Communist Party. [Hungarian Prime Minister] Nemeth’s event blind-sided [Communist Party head] Grosz. All the planning and coordination happened under his nose, but he knew nothing. It was all over before Grosz had time to react. On the outside, it was a triumph of political theatre; on the inside, it was a heist.

May Day was supposed to be a special event, a chance for the Party to rekindle confidence in its vision. Tens of thousands of people were anticipated. But the weather didn’t cooperate – sheets of rain poured over the venue, turning the fairgrounds into a muddied lagoon. Few but Party functionaries showed up.

When it came time for speeches, Nemeth stood on the damp, cheerless stage beside Grosz, who sermonized about the glories of communism and hectored Nemeth for his reckless reforms.

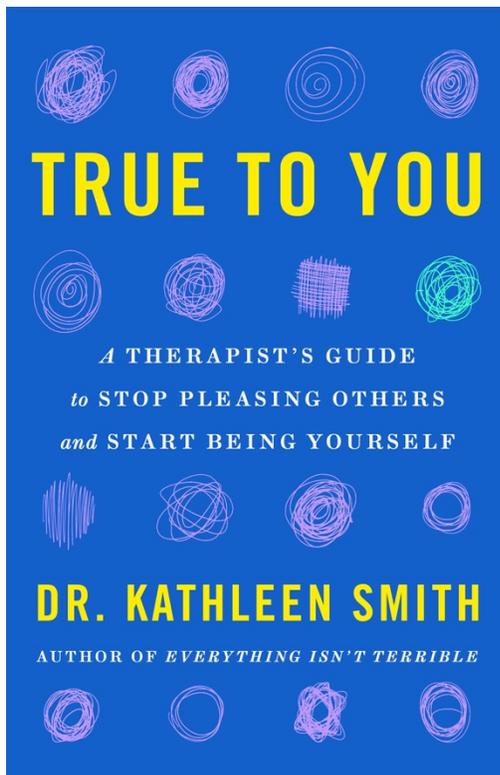
If Nemeth took any solace, it was in knowing what was to come the following day.

The wire-cutting went off without a hitch. Eager journalists sped home to write up the shocking news, border guards soaked up the attention of the world, so rarely cast upon their far-flung stretch of it. That evening, news of the event was aired on Hungarian television and the country watched in profound disbelief.

TRUE TO YOU:

A Therapist's Guide to Stop Pleasing Others and Start Being Yourself

By Dr. Kathleen Smith



North American English Rights: St Martins Essentials (Macmillan)

Editor: Sallie Lotz

Publication Date: July 9, 2024

Genre: Self-Help

Wordcount: 63,000

Materials Available: 2nd Pass PDF

Final Expected: 4/1/24

Rights Sold: USCOM (St Martins Essentials), UK (Headline)

Simplified Chinese (China Science & Technology), Korean

(Chungrim Publishing), Russian (MIF), Indonesian (m&c!

Publishing), Italian (Giunti Editore)

Rights Available: Translation, Film/TV

Agent: Jessica Felleman

Description: A self-help guide that offers explanations for avoidable burnout and steps for building your own best thinking. The book for overfunctioners, anxious fixers, and people pleasers.

Author Biography:

Dr. Kathleen Smith is a licensed therapist and mental health writer who lives in Washington, DC. An associate faculty member of the Bowen Center for the Study of the Family, she teaches Bowen family systems theory to leaders around the globe. Breaking down therapy concepts into witty, relatable stories for readers, Dr. Smith is the author of *Everything Isn't Terrible* (Hachette, December 2019) and a popular newsletter with over 10,000 subscribers. She has been interviewed by *The New York Times* and *The Washington Post* about anxiety and relationships, and her essays have appeared in *Slate*, *Salon*, *New York Magazine*, *Psychology Today*, and more.

Praise/Blurbs:

"True to You is a beautiful blend of storytelling, science and practical tools. Smith uses her expertise to introduce true boundary setting tools to build (and rebuild) our relationships to others and ourselves."

- Eve Rodsky, NYT Bestselling Author, *Fair Play*

"*True to You* is the book you want when you're ready to figure out how to change relationship patterns that aren't working. I learned so much, I might just flip back to page one and start it again!"

- Mary Laura Philpott, author of *Bomb Shelter: Love, Time, and Other Explosives*

"Humans are social creatures, and it is so easy to become more attuned to the group than to ourselves. In this engaging and conversational book, Dr. Smith gives practical steps for spending less time worrying about everyone else's anxiety, and spending more time becoming the best people we can be."

- Laura Vanderkam, author of *Tranquility by Tuesday: 9 Ways to Calm the Chaos and Make Time for What Matters*

"This remarkable book will change how you approach your relationships, providing concrete tips, strategies, and new ways of thinking that are clear and powerful. Kathleen Smith has spent years studying how to improve human relationships and helping clients do just that. *True to You* is the perfect book for people who are frustrated at their inability to kick bad relationship habits that make them frustrated and unhappy. This book will help anyone seeking to create deeper connections in their families, at home, and at work. It is an essential read for anyone who wants to make better relationship choices and learn how to be their best and most effective self."

- Karl Pillemer, PhD, author of *Fault Lines: Fractured Families and How to Mend Them*

"If you long to have relationships that don't make you feel anxious or beholden to another person, Smith's book will help you get unstuck. This book truly offers a new way to be yourself in the world, have healthier relationships at home and work, and live the life that you want to live."

- Morra Aarons-Mele, author of *The Anxious Achiever: Turn Your Biggest Fears into Your Leadership Superpower*

"In *True to You*, Kathleen Smith encourages us to look at anxiety through an unexpected and remarkably helpful lens: instead of focusing only on personal, individual causes and solutions to anxiety and discontent, she suggests we look at anxiety and our responses to it as part of a system that's created with other people, whether that's family, friends, classroom, workplace, church. This shift in understanding is hugely illuminating, thrilling even. **Reading *True to You* felt like one "aha!" moment after another, on every page. Smith leads us through this new terrain with such firm encouragement and such a steady, reassuring presence that you will be braver than you thought possible in confronting your own roles in the systems in your life. I learned so much from this book. I will read it again, and probably again after that. I can't imagine a single person that this book might not help.**"

- Kerry Egan, author of *On Living*.

Sample:

“We’re so good at reading others, sometimes we forget to know ourselves. We can think and act as individuals, by adopting different beliefs, or moving in a new direction. People can hop off their hamster wheels. They can learn to disappoint people. They can say to their family, “This is who I am. This is what I believe.” They can be themselves, without giving into, or giving up on important relationships. “

Copy:

When’s the last time you *felt* as composed as you portray to your boss, family and friends? If there’s a discord between the two, you’re not alone. Humans are master pretenders—we often seem stronger, calmer and more mature than we really are, while the truth is we’re full of doubts and self-criticism that pushes us to borrow reassurance from friends, beliefs from strangers on the internet, or attention that, in the moment, makes us feel successful, but leaves us totally hollow and burnt out.

True to You is a relatable self-help guide for people who want to learn to live less focused on others’ reactions and more confidently by their own principles. Readers will learn how to:

- Interrupt relationship patterns that keep you stuck.
- Rely less on praise and approval from others.
- Develop a solid sense of self in anxious times.
- Build more authentic and rewarding relationships.

Dr. Smith uses examples from the lives of her therapy clients to explain how we borrow confidence, calmness, and beliefs from our relationships and offers actionable steps and exercises for building a life with your own best-thinking. With a healthy dose of humor, she unpacks the science of our social nature, explaining why we try so hard to be what others want us to be and how we can start living from the inside out. By learning how to be more responsible for yourself, rather than over-responsible for everyone else, you can find the freedom to develop richer relationships, pursue what’s important to you, and feel steadier in this very anxious world.