

# RISING ACTION

PUBLISHING COLLECTIVE

## FALL 2023 RIGHTS GUIDE

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## THE THINGS WE LOST

### MAGGIE GILES

For fans of Amy Impellizzeri's "Lemongrass Hope" and Taylor Jenkins Reid's "Maybe In Another Life," that will have you wondering, what if?

Maddie Butler has been haunted for fourteen years. After the suspicious death of a friend when she was twenty-two, Maddie tried to move on, convincing herself there was nothing she could have done. Now in an unfulfilling marriage, she realizes how much the guilt has led to an unhappy life.

When she runs into her ex-boyfriend, the memories come flying back in full force. Burdened with regret and unhappiness, Maddie wonders how her life could have been different. The next morning, she wakes up twenty-six years old and in a completely different life. Her daughters don't exist, her husband is nowhere to be found, and her friend is still alive, four years after her funeral.

As Maddie navigates this new world, she realizes she is the product of her own unhappiness. But is this new do-over exactly what she needs, even if it means never seeing her daughters again?

- Won award as Distinguished Favourite at the 2023 Independent Press Award

#### Praise for THE THINGS WE LOST:

"The many plot twists and turns will keep readers flipping through the pages at lightning speed. This novel has it all: love, laughter, murder, and hope."

— Booklist starred review

"This intriguing Sliding Doors-style story makes the reader think about how a single decision can change our entire future. Both suspenseful and emotional, THE THINGS WE LOST will keep you turning pages right until the end."

— Kathleen Barber, author of "Are You Sleeping"

"In THE THINGS WE LOST, debut author, Maggie Giles has crafted a page-turning contemporary allegory about the domino effect of our choices and our desires. Book clubs are sure to devour this one, as Maddie Butler's "Then" and "Now" intertwine and interrupt with unexpected twists and reveals that will have readers contemplating the "What If?" in their own lives as well!"

— Amy Impellizzeri, award-winning author of "Lemongrass Hope"

**Maggie Giles** is a debut Canadian author. She has been a member of the Women's Fiction Writers Association since 2014 where she works as their Social Media Director. She lives in Collingwood, Ontario with her Bullmastiff Cross. *The Things We Lost* is her first novel. Her second, *Twisted*, is releasing in Fall 2023 with Rising Action.



**APRIL 19, 2022**

Territory Rights: WORLD  
 Rights Available: Translation rights available (North America unavailable)  
 Film Rights: Available  
 Audio Rights: English rights unavailable, translation rights available

## (NOT) YOUR BASIC LOVE STORY

### LINDSAY MAPLE

Stubbornly independent Becky isn't looking for love, but when sparks fly on a flight to Mexico she learns her carefully planned life might be the opposite of what she needs.

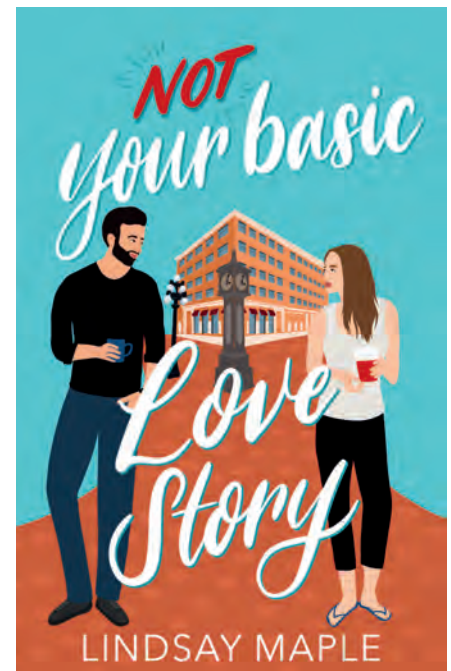
What begins as a fun vacation fling with a sexy stranger turns into so much more. The problem? Dev and Becky couldn't be more different. Back home in Vancouver, Canada, their relationship grows, and their two worlds collide.

Can a roommate-hating city girl with a diet of chicken nuggets and cheap wine make it work with a vegetarian, non-drinking, Sikh man who lives with his rambunctious multi-generational family in the suburbs?

As Becky navigates her way through a culture she knows nothing about, she is faced with one of the most important decisions of her life: change her plans for how she'd imagined her happily-ever-after, or walk away from love.

"(Not) Your Basic Love Story" is a RomCom about acceptance, compromise, and love being the only thing that truly matters.

Lindsay Maple resides in British Columbia, Canada. A certified yoga instructor, Lindsay manages the local hot yoga and fitness studio, and teaches several classes a week, including goat yoga. When not taking care of her busy family, reading, or writing, she can usually be found in her kitchen baking, hiking in the forests, or drinking wine in her backyard with her giant tortoise.



**AUGUST 23, 2022**

Territory Rights: WORLD  
 Rights Available: Translation rights available (North America unavailable)  
 Film Rights: Available  
 Audio Rights: English rights unavailable, translation rights available

## PERILS OF SEA AND SKY

### LILIAN HORN

In the early 1700s, the discovery of anti-gravity technology led to the development of the aershifp trade.

But there is one area into which no sky captain dares to venture, and that is the Grey Veil: an inhospitable fog threatening the lives and sanity of all who enter.

With the Veil under a strict travel-ban, most level-headed pilots circumvent this treacherous place. Captain Rosanne Drackenheart, on the other hand, makes a pretty penny conducting her smuggling operation through the very edge of the mysterious fog.

When she is blackmailed into searching for a lost warship, she is forced to venture into the untraversed bowels of the Veil. Rosanne must protect her crew from mystical creatures, defend against pirates gunning for her ship, and save herself from the creature known as the Forest Devil.

Featuring Scandinavian myths and steampunk elements, "Perils of Sea and Sky" is a thrilling high fantasy adventure.

#### Praise for PERILS OF SEA AND SKY:

"[Perils of Sea and Sky] is a riveting story that will keep readers glued to their seats until its satisfying conclusion."

—ALA BookList

"A rollicking adventure with innovative technology and characters you'd trust with your life—or your imagination!"

— Shelley Adina, bestselling author of the "Magnificent Devices" steampunk series

Norwegian-born and resident, Lilian Horn brings life to Scandinavian folklore through her debut "Perils of Sea and Sky." She is a biomedical laboratory scientist, hobby painter, and game enthusiast. She lives in the arctic city of Tromsø with her introverted and demanding cat.



**SEPTEMBER 20, 2022**

Territory Rights: WORLD  
 Rights Available: Translation rights available (North America unavailable)  
 Film Rights: Available  
 Audio Rights: English rights unavailable, translation rights available

# WE'RE ALL LYING

## MARIE STILL

How far would you go to keep what's yours?

Someone is hunting Cass.

Cass lives an enviable life: a successful career, two great kids, and a handsome husband. Then an email from her husband's mistress, Emma, brings the façade of perfection crumbling around her, setting off a chain of events where buried secrets come back to haunt her.

A taunting email turns into stalking and escalates into much worse. Ethan and Cass try to move on, then Emma disappears.

No longer considered a victim, Cass finds herself the prime suspect and center of the investigation. Her dark secrets—including ones she didn't know existed—threaten to destroy everything they've worked for.

A fast-paced psychological thriller with jaw-dropping twists, the novel examines buried family secrets and how desperation can lead to fatal mistakes when "We're All Lying."

- One of BuzzFeed's 20 Most Anticipated Thrillers of 2023

### Praise for WE'RE ALL LYING:

"I love a twisty, turny thriller and this was exactly that. A gripping, empathetic read and a wonderful debut."

— John Marrs, international bestselling author of "What Lies Between Us" and "The One"

"Full of twists and turns, "We're All Lying" lives up to its title and then some. This debut is a domestic thriller with plenty of surprises, keeping you guessing all the way through to the shocking end. I loved it."

— Kaira Rouda, USA Today and Amazon Charts bestselling author of "Somebody's Home" and "Best Day Ever"

"Marie Still's "We're All Lying" is the delightfully dark thriller you've been waiting to sink your teeth into. A cast of characters you know better than to trust, a twist you never saw coming, and an utterly satisfying ending. Still's debut will leave you breathless."

— Jessica Payne, international bestselling author of "Make Me Disappear" and "The Lucky One"

Marie Still grew up obsessed with words and the dark and complex characters authors bring to life with them. Now she creates her own while living in Tampa with her husband, four kids, two dogs, and a very grumpy hedgehog.



**MARCH 14, 2023**

Territory Rights: WORLD  
 Rights Available: Translation rights available (North America unavailable)  
 Film Rights: Available  
 Audio Rights: English rights unavailable, translation rights available

# IRL

## E. A. FIELD

Something is wrong in Bunker, Illinois.

Nora Grace Moon thought the toughest challenge this semester would be surviving crippling bouts of OCD, but when her deceased roommate turns up as a reanimated corpse, her world starts to collapse.

Nora, a hardcore gamer, has an uncanny, heated connection to long-time fellow player Wesley. When her uncle goes missing shortly after the undead begin to raise havoc, she reaches out to him for advice. It turns out Wesley is a US Marshal with real-life skills for tactical survival, not just in-game.

They uncover a plot involving an ancient archeology society that will stop at nothing until they recover an object Nora's uncle placed in her care- an ancient artifact that is the only thing that can stop the zombie curse...or will unleash a new world order of the undead.

IRL is a paranormal thriller about leaving the online world and dealing with things "In Real Life."

E.A. Field is an adopted Korean American with a passion for diversity, rescue dogs, baking, and gaming (not necessarily in that order). She has been previously published, under pen name Anne Bourne, with the fantasy "Blue Moon."



**JULY 18, 2023**

Territory Rights: WORLD  
 Rights Available: Translation rights available (North America unavailable)  
 Film Rights: Available  
 Audio Rights: English rights unavailable, translation rights available

## BURLINGTON HEATHER DIXON

Mae Roberts is certain her new life in the suburbs with her family will be everything she's always wanted.

That is, until one of the mothers from her daughters' school goes missing.

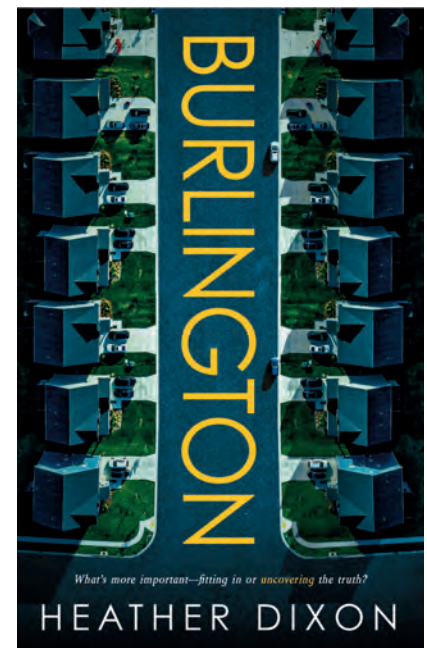
Mae never thought she would fit in amongst the beautiful and rich mothers at Riverpark Elementary. Though, when she's accepted into their clique and they ask her to be a part of their unofficial neighborhood watch, Mae finds herself slipping more and more into a world of odd dinner parties, secrets and lies, and even rumors of suicide attempts.

It's only when one of the Riverpark Moms disappears, and then another, that Mae must decide what's more important- fitting in or uncovering the truth.

A fresh take on belonging, obsession and schoolyard politics, "Burlington" is a suspenseful debut novel that explores the exclusive world of wealthy mothers and demonstrates how privilege can come at a devastating price.

- Featured as one of the most anticipated books of 2023 on Goodreads

Heather Dixon is a member of the Women's Fiction Writers Association, a former copywriter and now editor of a parenting website. She's a mother of three daughters and lives just outside of Toronto, Ontario.



**AUGUST 16, 2023**

Territory Rights: WORLD  
Rights Available: Translation rights available (North America unavailable)  
Film Rights: Available  
Audio Rights: English rights unavailable, translation rights available



## BEVERLY BONNEFINCHE IS DEAD

### KRISTEN SEELEY

Socially awkward, anxiety-riddled Beverly Bonnefinche only loves three things in life: her parents, books, and a homeless man named Bill.

Without them, the only way Beverly manages to get by each day is with the help of a peculiar coping mechanism that allows her to dissolve her feelings.

Yet everything changes for Beverly when she meets Henry, a persistent, friendly man who sees something in Beverly most people have missed. As their relationship develops, despite her best intentions, Beverly soon finds herself stepping outside of her carefully controlled life and forging new friendships.

It's only when a series of twists and turns threatens to unravel her new life, and her mind, that Beverly must determine if she's got it in her to stop trudging through life- and finally start living it.

Emotional, witty, and uplifting, "Beverly Bonnefinche is Dead" is an unforgettable story of love, loss, friendship, and what it means to ultimately find the courage to be who you are.

**Kristen Seeley** is the pen name of Marie Still, where she writes stories less focused on murder- but still explores the darker, more curious side of humans. A lover of books, she spends her time overly caffeinated in front of her computer in the Tampa Bay area with her husband and four children.



**SEPTEMBER 5, 2023**

Territory Rights: WORLD  
 Rights Available: Translation rights available (North America unavailable)  
 Film Rights: Available  
 Audio Rights: English rights unavailable, translation rights available

## TWISTED

### MAGGIE GILES

Detective Ryan Boone thought the simple jewelry heist was an open and shut case.

That is until he discovers an unknown drug, and this minor crime he was investigating may be tied to a string of seemingly unconnected murders. Meanwhile, Mel Parker, unscrupulous leader of a less-than-legal high-end escort service, stumbles across the same pills. On top of protecting her "investment," she has her own reasons for attempting to unravel the mystery behind the medication.

Ryan knows someone has the answers he seeks, and Mel can't come forward. To complicate things further, five other women are implicated in the murders despite most having never met. As the trail turns up as many mysteries as resolutions, Ryan and Mel must discover the twisted connection before someone else ends up dead.

For fans of "The Wife Between Us" by Greer Hendricks and Sarah Pekkanen, and "When You Find Me" by P. J. Vernon, *Twisted* will have you questioning the motive behind the murders and how exactly one can be found guilty when the evidence doesn't add up.

- Maggie's debut "The Things We Lost" was a Distinguished Favourite at the Independent Press Awards in 2023.

#### Praise for TWISTED:

"Twisted is the perfect word to describe the way you'll feel as this thriller reaches that OMG moment when you finally figure out what's going on. It'll keep you guessing until the very last page."

— Lyn Liao Butler, Amazon bestselling author of "Someone Else's Life"

"With an intricate, inventive plot, *Twisted* by Maggie Giles is a fascinating suspense that had me theorizing every which way while enthralled with the clever clues. As a detective trying to solve a jewelry theft stumbles on a high-class escort service, nothing is as it seems. This wild, gritty thrill ride will knock you for a loop and blow your mind."

— Samantha M. Bailey, international bestselling author of "Woman on the Edge" and "Watch Out for Her"

Maggie Giles is a Canadian author. She has been a member of the Women's Fiction Writers Association since 2014 where she works as their Social Media Director. She lives in Collingwood, Ontario. "The Things We Lost," her first novel, was released in April 2022 and won an Independent Press Award.



**SEPTEMBER 19, 2023**

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 Rights Available: Translation rights available (North America unavailable)  
 Film Rights: Available  
 Audio Rights: English rights unavailable, translation rights available

## THE ROADS WE TAKE

### CHRISTY KATE LEE

The year is 1885, and what Clara Thomas desires most is a life beyond the ordinary.

As one of Canada's first female physicians, she yearns to start her own medical practice. Unfortunately, her parents view her goals as an idle preoccupation, encouraging her instead to settle down with a man of their choosing and give up her dreams.

Fleeing this conventional life, Clara marries a handsome stranger in haste and journeys to British Columbia to start a life she wants to live.

Unfortunately, she shortly discovers that her husband has a crippling addiction and a tendency towards laziness and anger. She could escape to Ontario, but this would also mean giving up her clinic and the relationships she's made in her new home.

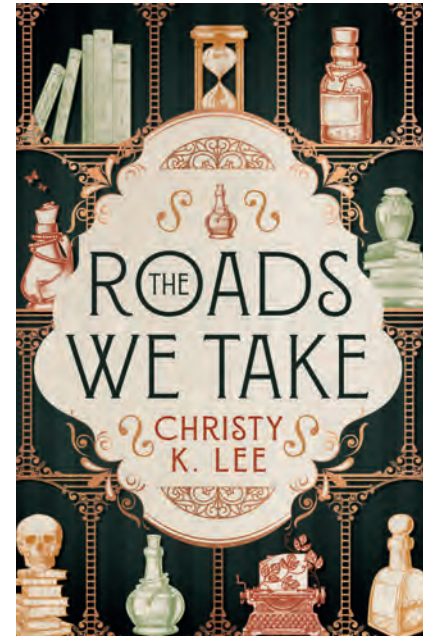
In an age where a woman's worth, rights, and choices are determined by her husband's whims, will Clara be forced to bow to convention, or will she throw caution to the wind and follow her heart? A heart-rending historical fiction about finding your way, "The Roads We Take" brings to life the struggles of women in late nineteenth century Canada.

#### Praise for THE ROADS WE TAKE:

"A touching love story with well-drawn characters and rich with period detail, *The Roads We Take* illuminates the little-known history of Canada's early women doctors."

— Maia Caron, author of "The Song of Batouche"

Christy Kate Lee is an elementary and middle school teacher with degrees in written communications (journalism & linguistics) and education. Christy was born in New Zealand but currently resides in Langley, British Columbia, Canada with her husband and three children. "The Roads We Take" is her debut novel.



**OCTOBER 24, 2023**

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 Rights Available: Translation rights available (North America unavailable)  
 Film Rights: Available  
 Audio Rights: English rights unavailable, translation rights available

## THE RETURN TRIP

### MAYA GOLDEN

At age thirty, Maya Golden appeared to be living a charmed life.

She was an award-winning sports reporter, a loyal wife, and a new mom. Outwardly, she was the picture of the American Dream for many women. Privately, she was battling addiction, perfectionism, dissociation disorder, and rage due to sexual abuse endured at the hands of her cousin and other predators.

After years of harboring pain and channeling her anger into unhealthy outlets, Maya wanted to change. So, on a family road trip back to her Texas hometown, she decided she was ready to put an end to the secrets that threatened her marriage and her career. Three separate moments of divine intervention ultimately saved Maya's life.

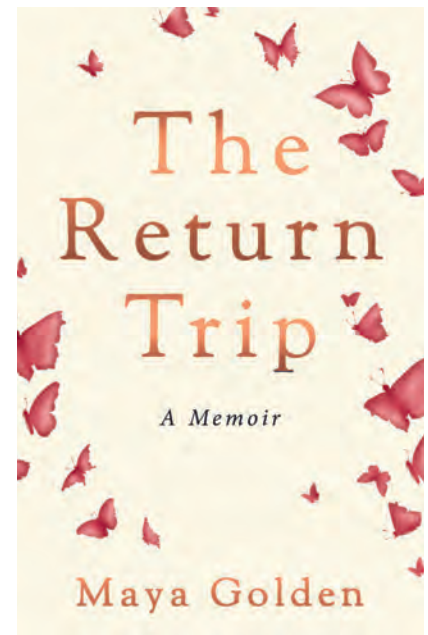
From a suicide plan to treatment facility to launching a non-profit organization—Maya's story chronicles and dissects her journey to show others that purpose can be made from trauma.

#### Praise for THE RETURN TRIP:

"The Return Trip is a blessed blueprint for anyone seeking freedom from the shackles of shame, guilt, and trauma. Maya Golden's vulnerability, candor, and powerful storytelling shook me to my core. Her story is inspirational in the deepest, rawest sense of the word—zero platitudes and sentimentality, 100% real and transformative. A beautiful gift to survivors and to those suffering in silence."

— Deesha Philyaw, author of "The Secret Lives of Church Ladies"

Maya Golden is an award-winning television and print journalist and writer. She was the first female weekend sports anchor/sports reporter in KLTV's history and the first female sports director in East Texas television history. Maya is the founder and executive director of the 1 in 3 Foundation, a nonprofit organization that helps adult women recover from PTSD, addiction and the lingering mental effects of sexual abuse or sexual assault.



**NOVEMBER 14, 2023**

Format: Galley

Territory Rights: WORLD  
 Rights Available: Translation rights available (North America unavailable)  
 Film Rights: Unavailable  
 Audio Rights: English rights unavailable, translation rights available

# NETHERGEIST

## NICK STEVENSON

For thousands of years, the Emperor Goat, a necromancer so powerful he has declared himself God, has had an iron grip on the universe, causing most worlds to fall into disrepair.

In a paranoid city of renegades, the last bastion of humanity holds out against his might.

Ayilia, its Regent-Elect, is friendless, single, the 'wrong' sex, the 'wrong' heritage, and apparently cursed. While attempting to rout a coup, she is selected by outside forces to search for the impending birth site of Al Kimiya, a mage who is said to be the only match for the Emperor. To save herself and her people, she must ally with heretic magi, necromantic freedom fighters, the human-hating, reptilian Krayal, and her sworn foe, the cowardly, lifeless warlord Vespasian.

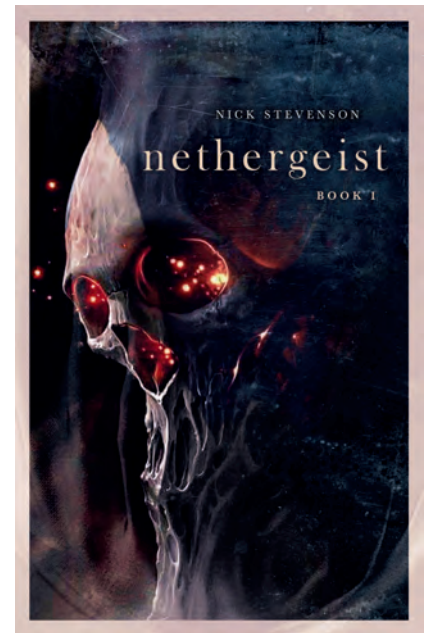
A complex literary fantasy, "Nethergeist" is a story where the conflict is as much about the characters' inner turmoil as the outward struggle against the maniacal emperor. Featuring intense battles, snappy dialogue, and a world on the edge of ruin, "Nethergeist" is a fantasy in the vein of "Malazan Book of the Fallen" and "The First Law."

The first in a series.

### Praise for NETHERGEIST:

"Devastatingly dystopian and hugely imaginative"  
 — Cameron Johnston, author of "The Maleficent Seven"

After graduating from university in history, social science, and politics, Nick Stevenson began work as a magazine editor. After putting in his time at a desk, adventure called, and Nick became an extensive traveler. After years spent in south-east Asia, China, Australia, New Zealand, and Australia, Nick returned to the UK and took up a career as an editor and writer of various e-zines. Fifteen years ago, Nick left the online world to run an English Language School and focus on crafting the "Nethergiest" books.



**MARCH 14, 2023**

Format: Galley

Territory Rights: WORLD  
 Rights Available: Translation rights available (North America unavailable)  
 Film Rights: Available  
 Audio Rights: English rights unavailable, translation rights available

## KEEP THIS OFF THE RECORD

### ARDEN JOY

Abigail Meyer and Freya Jonsson can't stand one another.

But could their severe hatred be masking something else entirely?

From the moment they locked eyes in high school, Abby and Freya have been at each other's throats. Ten years later, when Abby and Freya cross paths again, their old rivalry doesn't take more than a few minutes to begin anew.

And now Naomi, Abby's best friend, is falling for Freya's producer and close pal, Will. Both women are thrilled to see their friends in a happy relationship – except they are now only a few degrees of separation from the person they claim to despise... and they can't seem to avoid seeing one another.

After their encounters repeatedly devolve into warfare, Abby and Freya's friends decide their age-old rivalry can only mean one thing: true love. Will their friends bring them together? Or will Freya's refusal to admit who she is keep them from discovering their underlying passion?

"Keep This Off The Record" is a fun and fresh LGBTQ+ story about the freedom to be who you are, even if that means falling for the person you hate.

#### Praise for KEEP THIS OFF THE RECORD:

"Delightful! This modern-day twist on "Much Ado About Nothing" is sure to please both lovers of romance and Shakespeare."

— Jean Meltzer, International bestselling author

Arden Joy was a queer Jew growing up in a conservative Christian community. She turned to writing at an early age as a way to create connection with people who were like her and understood her. When she's not writing, you can find her running Her Adventures, a travel community of over 100,000 women around the world that was recently awarded the Community Accelerator grant from Facebook for being one of the top communities making an impact on their platform. She lives in Chicago with her three boys: husband, toddler, and dog and her daughter.



**JANUARY 31, 2024**

Format: Galley

Territory Rights: WORLD  
 Rights Available: Translation rights available (North America unavailable)  
 Film Rights: Available  
 Audio Rights: English rights unavailable, translation rights available

## IF I LOSE HER

### BRIANNE SOMMERVILLE

Who can you trust when you can't trust yourself?

The pregnancy podcasts warned Joanna Baker about the baby blues, but when a near-fatal mistake places the first-time mom under the watchful eye of Child Protective Services, she receives a serious diagnosis.

Postpartum depression. Jo hears the words, yet they don't make sense. Nothing does. Her blackouts are increasing, and she can't recall events she's been accused of.

As she fights to keep her daughter, she discovers cracks in her neighborhood, family, and her own home. With the support of her sisters, she attempts to piece together her traumatic past and uncover who is truly in control.

Jo must battle her faltering mind to save what's most important—her daughter.

Brianne Somerville studied English Literature and Theatre at Queen's University before entering the world of public relations. Brianne lives in Toronto with her partner and two littles under four and knows every episode of Peppa Pig by heart. Her debut novel "If I Lose Her" arrives March 2024 with Rising Action Publishing Collective.



**MARCH 5, 2024**

Format: Galley

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 Rights Available: Translation rights available (North America unavailable)  
 Film Rights: Available  
 Audio Rights: English rights unavailable, translation rights available

## BOYSTOWN HEARTBREAKERS

### KATHLEEN CALIHAN

Chicago hairstylist Bastian Russo has only three things to his name: a pair of \$1,200 shears, a Boystown studio apartment, and a list of men's names written on his closet wall.

His constant worry that he's not good enough and his chronic inability to trust are what leaves him heartbroken time and again.

After he adds the latest name, he turns to his best friend, Andres Wood, for solace. But instead of treating Bastian to dinner, drinks, and the usual effortless banter, Andres makes an interesting suggestion: that Bastian should get over the breakup by dating...Andres.

Sure, Andres is successful and attractive, but he also knows everything there is to know about Bastian—including what an insecure pain in the ass he is. Meanwhile, everyone in Bastian's life, from his mother to his co-workers, thinks he's an idiot for not having dated Andres already. So, what could go wrong?

Everything.

Now Bastian has to sort out his inadequacy and trust issues to prove he's worthy of transitioning from Andres' best friend to his lover. Otherwise, it's a matter of time before one or both of them end up on Bastian's list of Boystown Heartbreakers.

Kathleen Calihan is a debut author, her specialty being romcoms. Outside of writing, she enjoys reading (obviously), music, dancing, yoga (she's even a certified instructor), running, cycling, and wandering around the Art Institute of Chicago. Before dipping her toe into writing, she traveled down a few different career paths, from barista to high end stylist at a salon to yoga instructor to personal assistant. There isn't an adventure she'll say no to nor an avenue she won't explore thoroughly. And all of this has been done with MS! Fun fact: she can't wink. Only hard blinks from her.



**APRIL 23, 2024**

Format: Manuscript



## JOURNEY OF THE LOST AND DAMNED

### LILIAN HORN

Following their harrowing journey in "Perils of Sea and Sky," Captain Rosanne Drackenheart is determined to discover the secrets of the map her father left behind.

But the Veil has left its scars in Rosanne's heart, as she's still hurting from the choices she made while being courted by the Forest Devil himself.

Grappling with her guilt, she gathers her crew, including a disguised Aros Bernhart who seeks escape from the inquisition, and heads back into the inhospitable fog. The crew believes that since they had escaped the terrors of the magical mist before, they are better equipped this time to explore the islands within.

They couldn't be more wrong.

Beset by shape-shifting creatures able to infiltrate dreams, Rosanne is faced with an invisible adversary forcing her to confront her fragile mind. As their journey takes them to the very heart of the Veil, hybrid monsters stalk the Red Queen, and Rosanne must once again work together with Aros to see their journey through or be lost to the Grey Veil forever like so many before them.

Norwegian-born and resident, *Lilian Horn* brings life to Scandinavian folklore through her debut "Perils of Sea and Sky." She is a biomedical laboratory scientist, hobby painter, and game enthusiast. She lives in the arctic city of Tromsø with her introverted and demanding cat.



**MAY 7, 2024**

Format: Manuscript

## WHAT HAPPENS IN IDAHO

### BONNIE JO PIERSON

Despite saving people's lives every day as a successful trauma surgeon, nothing can mend Dr. Liliانا Chase's heart after the loss of her husband and baby girl.

When her mother convinces her to come back to Clear Springs, Idaho, for the first time in seven years, she intends to make the visit as short as possible. What she didn't expect was to wreck her car while avoiding a cow with a death wish.

Blake Richardson, a mechanic and single dad, isn't used to helping fiery physicians, but he can't leave Lili planted in a potato field and facing off with a cow. He swears he'll never let another woman into his world after the way his ex-wife left him, but something about Lili keeps him from seeing her as just another big-city doctor.

While Lili is stuck waiting for her car to be repaired in the tiny rural town, she can't resist the pull Blake has on her. Blake's fun-loving and genuine personality might be enough to make her believe in love again. But there's a secret weighing heavily on Blake, and his connection to the death of Lili's family will force them both to confront their fears of loss and abandonment, or risk being alone forever.

A wholesome romance, "What Happens in Idaho" is perfect for fans of Nicolas Sparks and Jojo Moyes.

Gifted with a short attention span, Bonnie Jo Pierson wants to experience and do as much as she can. Using the great powers of YouTube she's taught herself how to knit, crochet, paint with oils, acrylics, and watercolors, coach volleyball, play the piano and cello, ride a motorcycle, renovate a house, sing, sew, raise goats, cows, and chickens, cook, bake, and most importantly how to write. With a degree in biology, she's a lover of all things science, especially in the microscopic world. She and her Navy veteran husband have four children and spent several years bouncing around to various locations in this beautiful country. Now she's made her home in small-town Idaho, where she's attempting to resurrect her great-grandparents one hundred year-old farm.



**JUNE 18, 2024**

Format: Manuscript

## DON'T EAT THE PIE

### MONIQUE EDWARDS

Newlywed Sam has always wanted to be a part of a normal happy family.

When her mother-in-law falls ill, Sam dutifully moves her family to Edenic Camillia Island to care for her. The island residents, namely the older women, welcome Sam and her daughter Emma with open arms, endless cocktails, and plenty of superstition.

It seems perfect until it's not. The house next to her mother-in-law's is creepy—not only that, it's where Ben's first wife died. Sam's teen daughter Emma isn't interested in spending the summer in Camilia. It gets even worse when Emma starts to see things—knowing that there are ghosts trying to warn her of something, but what?

Despite Emma's pleas, Sam doesn't want to rock the boat with her new family. Emma won't pretend nothing is happening, especially as the messages become more grim and frequent. What secrets are buried on Camilia Island? And why are all the residents keen on keeping them quiet?

For fans of "Hide" by Kiersten White and "How To Sell A Haunted House" by Grady Hendrix, "Don't Eat The Pie" will haunt you long after you've turned the last page.

**Monique Edwards** is a mother of two girls, a wife and a trauma counselor living in Michigan. In her free time, you can catch her reading, playing with her kids or exploring haunted places. Her short story "Street Spirit" was published in "Rockstar," a horror anthology. She also hosts a horror show on Instagram Live called "Twenty Minutes of Terror" where she interviews horror authors. She often features themes of living life with trauma in her stories through her personal lens as a survivor.



**JULY 16, 2024**

Format: Manuscript

## MY DARLINGS

### MARIE STILL

No one was supposed to know. I've always been so careful. My Darlings, how did we get here?

Evil lurks behind the perfectly manicured lawns, ornate iron gates, and long winding driveways of affluent DC—but not for long.

Stay-at-home mom Eloise Williams is PTO president and a respected local philanthropist who sits on the boards of many distinguished charities. In addition to being a doting wife and mother, she is also a serial killer.

But Eloise isn't the only lady of society playing a part. As the hidden lives of Eloise's inner circle are exposed, the body count rises. When an old friend returns, Eloise desperately clings to remain in control.

Money and power can only buy influence and safety for so long. Eventually, the curtains lift, exposing the chilling reality hiding in plain sight.

- Film/TV Rights currently optioned by Kelly Ripa's production company Milojo, and James Griffith's company FeFiFo.
- Co-Showrunner of YOU season 5 Justin W. Lo and YOU Writer Leo Richardson are signed on.

Marie Still grew up obsessed with words and the dark and complex characters authors bring to life with them. Now she creates her own while living in Tampa with her husband, four kids, two dogs, and a very grumpy hedgehog.



**AUGUST 13, 2024**

Format: Galley

Territory Rights: WORLD  
 Rights Available: Translation rights available (North America unavailable)  
 Film Rights: Unavailable  
 Audio Rights: English rights unavailable, translation rights available

## BETWEEN LIES AND REVENGE

### HANNAH SHARPE

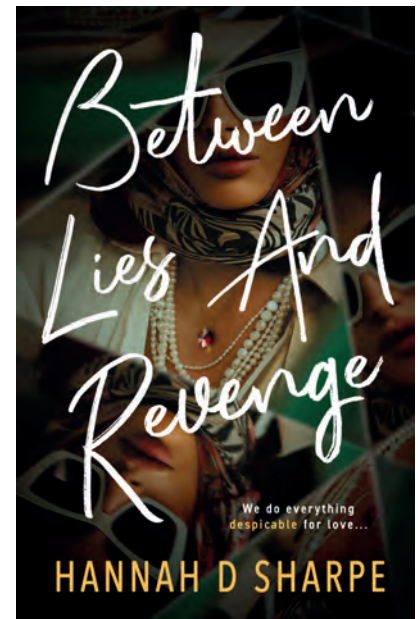
Years after the death of her brother and the theft of her heirloom jewelry, ex-con Elle is on the run...until she spots a stranger wearing a signature piece.

Determined to take back what is hers, Elle stalks and befriends the woman, using her gemology skills as a ruse. Elle offers to appraise and clean the jewelry, replicating and replacing the pieces instead.

Olivia is drowning. She maxes out credit cards behind her financially-strict husband's back in order to pay for fertility treatments, keep her blackmailing father at bay, and maintain appearances with her wealthy friends and their cultist MLM social circles. When Olivia meets Elle, she finally feels understood...and inspired.

With Elle's expertise and Olivia's connections, the two start a side-hustle by way of home jewelry appraisal parties. When this isn't lucrative enough, they develop the perfect con: switching rich housewives' gems with fakes. But their hidden truths get in the way of their success, and each other. Before their secrets bury them, they must confess their lies to one another and trust their final con will exact the revenge that'll secure their freedom, and their lives.

Hannah Sharpe is an author of book club fiction. She relishes in creating morally ambiguous characters that make you question how far you'd go to get what you want. She also enjoys exposing truths and buried emotions tied to being a woman in today's world. Hannah is raising her three young children with her husband, and is a full time RN with experience in Emergency Medicine, Nursing Education, and Insurance. Life is busy—as it should be—but there's always time for reading and creating the next story.



**SEPTEMBER 3, 2024**

Format: Manuscript

# FUTURE PUBLICATIONS

## MAGIC IN THE AIR ADRIANNA SCHUH



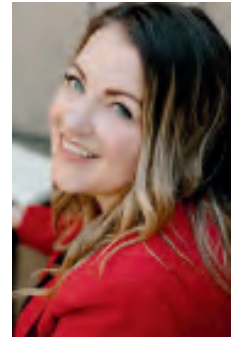
"Magic In The Air" is comped to "The Ex Hex" by Erin Sterling and "Witch Please" by Ann Aguirre.

Small town baker, Olivia Ayala knows everything about Addersfield, Rhode Island. She knows that the town has been a haven for witches since 1697. She also knows that newcomer Draven James, her annoyingly handsome and much too friendly neighbor is hiding more than an addiction to magic spiked sweets she sells at her bakery.

Journalist, Draven James doesn't believe in fairy tales or happily ever after. Following the death of his mother and the revelation that she was a witch; he's also forced to admit he's always believed in magic. As he learns more about her life and the real reason his father abandoned them, he concludes that the magic that flows through Addersfield is tied to the destruction of his family. Draven settles into the witchy small-town community with surprising ease, and an increasingly inconvenient crush on the prickly but beautiful single mother next door. Despite her growing feelings for Draven, Olivia is determined to protect the town she loves.

**ROMANCE**  
**SEPTEMBER 17, 2024**

## WICKED MAGGIE GILES



The second novel to "Twisted," "Wicked" picks up where "Twisted" left off!

Wicked features a strange prescription drug and the conspiracy around it sends local police on a whirlwind case as they attempt to locate the original creator and make him answer for the harm he's caused.

**THRILLER**  
**OCTOBER 22, 2024**

## RECLAIMING VENUS MAYA ANGELA SMITH AND ALVENIA BRIDGES



The memoir showcases Alvenia Bridges, a young Black girl from a destructive home in the 1950's mid-century segregated Kansas, where one of her most formative experiences was unsuccessfully integrating the all-white public school in her district. Growing up, she had a dream; to leave home and see the world after graduating high school and with every ounce in her being she did just that. Alvenia successfully navigated the predominantly white and male-run worlds of fashion and Rock and Roll. While the racially oppressive environment of her childhood in Kansas restricted her movements, her unflappable resolve and uncanny ability to create opportunities for herself demonstrated her impressive mobility in the face of societal constraints. Alvenia has much to share, from a chance encounter with race car driver John Von Neumann that jump started her modeling career in Europe to her years working for famous musicians and to her own fledgling music career that faltered with the sudden death of her mentor Bill Graham. Alvenia has crossed paths with a wide variety of people in the music and fashion industries, from long-term working relationships with Roberta Flack, the Rolling Stones, and to momentary yet extraordinary encounters with Jimi Hendrix, John Lennon, Prince, and Tina Turner to personal and professional interactions with Jerry Hall, Antonio Lopez, and Francesco Scavullo. Alvenia has forged a path that reads like a work of fiction.

**CREATIVE NONFICTION**  
**NOVEMBER 7, 2024**

## WRITING ACTIVISM ADDY STRICKLAND AND EMMA KUZMYK



Writing Activism: Stories from the Front Lines of Campus Activism Against Sexualized Violence, is both a record and an act of protest, progress, and survival located within the violent constraints of Canada's post-secondary landscape. The book is an argument for continued collective action and a call to value and prioritize the voices of student activists, who are not only among the key targets of sexualized violence on post-secondary campuses but also key participants in driving change. These stories have, until now, existed precariously in news clippings, on social media, or been passed on through whisper networks—they deserve the legitimacy and permanence that comes with taking up shelf space.

Our twenty-four contributors, representing seven provinces and reflecting the experiences of a diverse group of activists—including racialized, Queer, and Indigenous activists—tell their stories through compelling personal essays, powerful poems, and transcriptions of speeches they've given at pivotal Women's Marches, protests, and Take Back the Night events. We've collected stories about the founding of national campaigns and organizations such as Students for Consent Culture Canada (SFCC), about cases of sexual assault that garnered national media attention, about campuses turned upside down by collective action, and more—all in the words of those driving change on the frontlines.

**ANTHOLOGY/ESSAY**  
**NOVEMBER 28, 2024**