



Summer 2020 Rights Catalog

Sharlene Martin, President and Producer (p.g.a.)

In 2003, Sharlene took her passion for great stories and their authors and her years in the entertainment industry, to form **Martin Literary & Media Management**. Her agency has experienced extraordinary success in sales and alliances. In the years since that time, her remarkable rise in the publishing industry is demonstrated by a rapidly growing list of non-fiction sales to such renowned major publishers as Random House, Rodale, Harper Collins, St. Martin's Press, Penguin Putnam, Hachette, Simon and Schuster, as well as to a host of boutique publishers for specialized genre books.

Representing adult nonfiction, she has numerous New York Times bestsellers and high profile books, including: *Chasing Cosby* by Nicole Weisensee Egan; *Impossible Odds: The Kidnapping of Jessica Buchanan and Her Dramatic Rescue by SEAL Team Six* by Anthony Flacco; *Picture Perfect: The Jodi Arias Story* by Shanna Hogan; *Notes Left Behind* by Keith & Brooke Desserich; Raffaele Sollecito's book, *Honor Bound: My Journey to Hell and Back with Amanda Knox*; HLN's Jane Velez-Mitchell's memoir, *I Want*; Suzanne Hansen's *You'll Never Nanny in this Town Again*; MaryJo Buttafuocco's *Getting It Through My Thick Skull*; and The Goldman family's *If I Did It*, based on the OJ Simpson murders of Ron Goldman and Nicole Simpson. Many of Sharlene's authors have had their books boosted as serial reprints in prestigious publications such as Readers' Digest, People Magazine, WHO, and the London Times, and five of her clients have appeared on Oprah. Other client appearances include 60 Minutes, The TODAY Show, The View, Fox and Friends, Good Morning America, The Early Show, 20/20, 48 Hours, Discovery Channel, Inside Edition, The 700 Club, ET, The Insider, ABC Nightline, Dr. Phil, Anderson Cooper 360, CNN, HLN, Discovery ID and Fox News.



She is actively doing business with a host of film and TV companies for adaptations of her clients' books.

Hallmark Hall of Fame's acclaimed TV movie in December 2008 was based on her client's book, *Front of the Class*. She was Executive Producer of Lifetime's 2012 movie, *The Pregnancy Project*, which garnered the two top *Imagen Awards* in 2012 for *Best Primetime Movie/Special* and *Best Actress (Alexa Vega)*. She was Co-Creator/Producer of the reality series, *DEADLY SINS* for Discovery ID, which ran for six seasons. She was the Co-EP with Nancy Glass Productions for the 2015-16 season of specials, *EPIC MYSTERIES* for Discovery ID. She served as Executive Producer with Outpost Entertainment for A&E's documentary, *OJ: Guilty in Vegas*. She will also serve as an Executive Producer of *The Assassination of Gerald Ford* being adapted by Andrew Logan and Taylor Allen, screenwriter/producers of *Chappaquiddick*. She is an Executive Producer for **Apple TV+** straight to series one-hour scripted mystery, *HOME BEFORE DARK*, directed by Jon M. Chu (Crazy Rich Asians), based on her client, Hilde Lysiak, a 13-year-old crime reporter and publisher of the Orange Street News, and author of the Scholastic Branches six book series, *Hilde Cracks the Case*. The series premiered April 3, 2020 and has already been renewed for a second season. She is also Executive Producer for *Secrets of a Marine's Wife* for Sony Television in development at Lifetime and recently optioned *The Stranger She Loved* to Sony Television as well. She will serve as Exec Producer of *Front of the Class* with Alibaba Pictures in China. Sharlene is a member of the Producers Guild of America. Additionally, she is also the co-author, with Anthony Flacco, of *Publish Your Nonfiction Book* (Writer's Digest Books) and *Literary Fails: Totally (sic)!*.

Publishers, editors, writers and entertainment execs who deal with her consistently express their joy in working with someone who is such an avid fan of good writing, as well as an enthusiastic guardian and representative of her clients' work. She employs this personal touch to all her business relationships and credits it with her proven record of success.

***Note: Sharlene Martin is attached as an Executive Producer to all projects per contractual agreement with MLM clients. Her credits can be seen at [IMDB.com](https://www.imdb.com).**

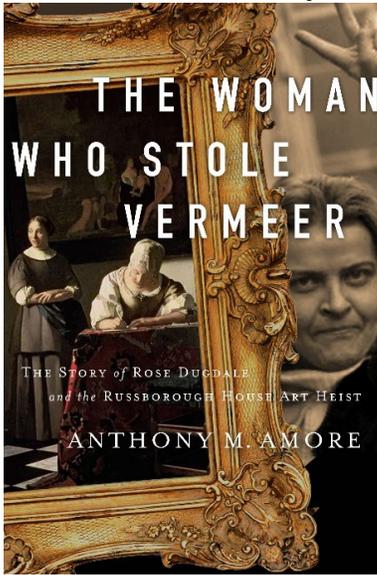
SCROLL DOWN TO SEE OFFERINGS

- Part One: Nonfiction*
- Part Two: True Crime*
- Part Three: Graphic Novels*
- Part Four: Children/Young Adults*
- Part Five: Reality Unscripted*
- Part Six: Faith Based*

Nonfiction Scripted

THE WOMAN WHO STOLE VERMEER

The True Story of Rose Dugdale and the 1974 Russborough House Art Heist



By Anthony M. Amore
Pegasus Books, Nov. 10, 2020
REPRESENTED BY UTA

*"Anthony Amore has written an engrossing character study of Rose Dugdale, a remarkable criminal. I'm very familiar with Anthony and his work, and there are similarities in how he analyzes thefts of art to come up with a specific offender profile and my process for analyzing crimes of violence. Why + How = Who." - John Douglas, legendary FBI criminal profiler, #1 New York Times best-selling author, and inspiration for Netflix's *Mindhunter**

A rollicking biography of a female art thief. In his lively third book about art and crime, Amore, the director of security at the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum, tells the story of a 'fiery, bold, and brash' Englishwoman who stole for nationalistic reasons. A captivating, detail-rich biography of a 'criminal legend.'” -Kirkus Reviews

Rose Dugdale's life is singularly notorious. Born into extreme wealth (she was a member of the last class of debutantes who were presented to the Queen), she abandoned her life as an Oxford-trained Ph.D. and heiress to join the cause of Irish Republicanism. While on the surface she appears to be the British version of Patricia Hearst, she is anything but. Dugdale ran head-first towards the action, spearheading the first aerial terrorist attack in British history by dropping bombs on a police station.

Later, Dugdale was the mastermind and leader of the biggest art theft of her time, when she led a gang into the opulent Russborough House in Ireland to make off with millions in prized paintings, including a work by the mysterious master Johannes Vermeer. Dugdale thus became—to this day—the only woman to pull off a major art heist.

Later imprisoned, Dugdale shocked the UK when it was learned that she was pregnant and would later give birth to her only son while locked up among terrorists and other criminals. In a first-of-its-kind arrangement, prison officials later let her marry the also-incarcerated father of her child. When he was later released, he would go on to stage a kidnapping of Dublin's leading industrialist in an attempt to win his wife's freedom in a weeks-long standoff that had all of Ireland at the edge of their seats.

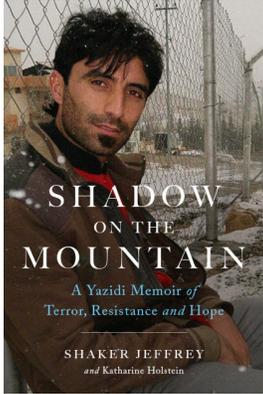
The Woman Who Stole Vermeer will examine the likelihood that this was not her only such heist. Rose Dugdale was truly ahead of her time. It's the perfect book for a wide audience. It will appeal to fans of true crime, fine art, and third-wave feminism.



Anthony M. Amore has previously published two books. His first, **STEALING REMBRANDTS: THE UNTOLD STORIES OF THE MOST NOTORIOUS ART HEISTS** was a *Wall Street Journal* Crime Best Seller. His second book, **THE ART OF THE CON: THE MOST NOTORIOUS FAKES, FRAUDS and FORGERIES** was a *New York Times* bestseller in crime. It was also named to the top twenty of Amazon's 100 Best Nonfiction Books of 2015.

Amore is the chief investigator of the infamous 1990 heist at the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum in which more than \$500 million in masterpieces were stolen. As a result, he garners a great deal of media attention, and has been profiled in *The New York Times*, *The Boston Globe*, and countless international and national broadcast media outlets. In addition, he is a frequent contributor to broadcast outlets, offering his expertise on matters related to theft, security, and terrorism.

www.AnthonyAmore.com www.lostartproject.com/about



SHADOW ON THE MOUNTAIN:

A Yazidi Memoir of Terror, Resistance and Hope

By Shaker Jeffrey and Katharine Holstein Hachette Group/DaCapo, Feb. 2020

Starred Booklist Review: ** His story, powerfully told with coauthor Holstein, is an incredible saga of selfless and courageous service to his people and his adopted American brothers as he provided invaluable intelligence and coordination—often personally leading missions behind enemy lines—to help rescue Yazidis from the mountain and the clutches of ISIS. The details that Jeffrey shares about this genocide will bring the toughest reader to tears, and he also illuminates the little-known history and culture of his people. An invaluable look into a still-unfolding tragedy.**

NY Journal of Books Review: *“This memoir is a spellbinding tale woven with gorgeous phrasing, compelling you to finish its journey at a breakneck pace along with Shaker Jeffrey, a hero of Promethean proportions.”*

Shelf Awareness: *Every part of Jeffrey's life is fascinating, from his village upbringing, his time with the American military and especially his bravery against ISIS. He displays a depth of strength and character, rendered beautifully with the help of Katharine Holstein, that is utterly inspiring.*

When Shaker Jeffrey woke to the thunder of trucks tearing across the dark plains of Shingal, he knew that his chances of surviving daybreak were dismal. For weeks, as ISIS unleashed a savage campaign of terror across Iraq, his army friends back in the USA had begged him to leave. But Shaker, a former American combat interpreter, was determined to forge a defense plan for his people. On August 3, 14, time was up. Shaker was Yazidi—an ancient religion whose members were sentenced by ISIS to mass extermination and slavery. Meanwhile, Shaker’s old army buddies, including high-ranking Special Operations officers, converged on Washington DC to plead for help and to set up a secure communications team. By nightfall, the number of massacred and missing reached the hundreds of thousands, while black-clad soldiers seized over nine thousand women as sex slaves.

In the pandemonium, a quarter of a million Yazidis fled across the desert for their only refuge—Mt. Shingal. Thousands were shot during the hard climb, others perished on the summit in the lethal 100-degree heat. As barefoot Shaker ran, his girlfriend, Dil-Mir, called him on a cell phone grabbed at the last second—she’d been taken. Shaker’s world shifted on its axis. After the war in Iraq, he thought the worst was over—he was wrong.

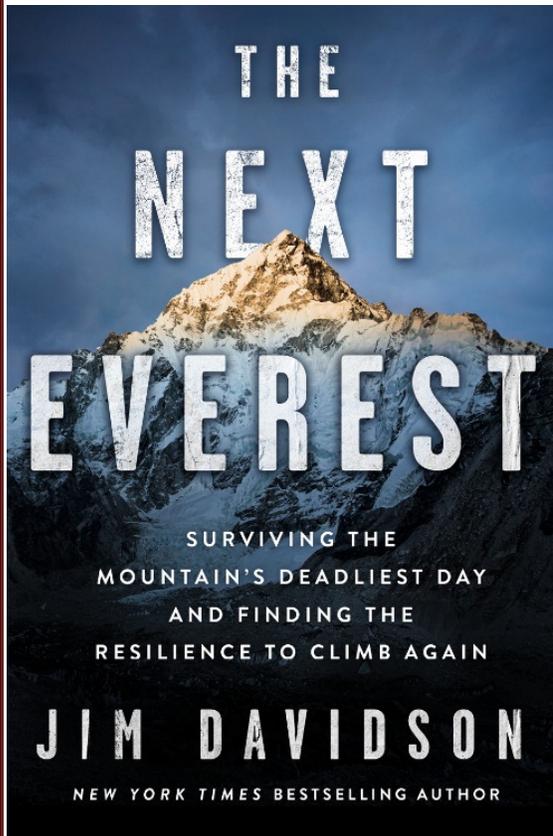
Back in 2003, 17-year-old Shaker had borrowed 50,000 Dinars from his brother and took a smuggler’s cab out of his poor farm boy life—all the way to terrorist infested Mosul. He figured his English was just good enough to work for the US military—and he was right. For 6 years, Shaker joined “extreme-risk” missions to dismantle terror cells and train Iraqi forces in the most volatile areas. By the end of his death-defying career, he’d been shot, worked under the command of the iconic General Petraeus, and made lifelong friends. Memories of that war haunted him—now the petrified voice of Dil-Mir would do the same.

Left to die with his people, Shaker had only one lifeline—his cell phone. Within hours, he was on a conference call with members of the US House Intelligence Committee, and his signal was tethered directly to CENTCOM, only to have his pleas for water drops and air strikes met with suspicion—many questioned if Shaker was a spy. Meanwhile, his people were dying at a rate of up to one hundred per hour. Then desperation mutated into countless acts of selfless bravery. Night after night, Shaker sneaked back down the mountain, through gunfire and enemy lines, relaying intelligence on ISIS positions and activities back to DC—all while foraging for food and water, and desperately trying to rescue the missing and imprisoned. Journalists from around the world, including CNN, the BBC, and the AP sought him out for reports. Finally, US airstrikes opened a critical evacuation route, but not before ISIS would come to know Shaker’s identity.

Over the next three years, as the Islamic State terrorized the world, Shaker crisscrossed the borders of the Middle East and Europe, documenting atrocities and mass graves with help of his American counterparts, while becoming the unwitting leader of a secret underground network that saved thousands of slaves—work that landed him at the top of ISIS’s execution list. Through it all the voice of his girlfriend called out—the relentless pursuit of her freedom kept him going. He infiltrated the enemy ranks in the heart of their Caliphate to find her: forging ids, studying their religion, mimicking their lingo— but he would only come within a few feet of saving her.

Shadows On The Mountain offers a gripping cinematic account of one man’s extraordinary journey, set in one of the most ruthless regions of the world, during a global war of ideologies and the unbridled terror that has come to define our age. From a poor farmer’s son, to an intrepid combat interpreter, he would transform into a person who

many describe as a modern-day “Schindler.” Repeated assassination attempts have forced him to stay on the move and galvanized his American brothers to find a way to save him, by finally bringing him to the United States.



THE NEXT EVEREST

Surviving the Mountain's Deadliest Day
& Finding the Resilience to Climb Again

By Jim Davidson, NYT Bestselling Author

St. Martin's Press, April 2021

100th Anniversary of the First Everest Expedition

The morning that Jim Davidson started climbing Mount Everest, the biggest earthquake in eighty-one years slammed into Nepal. Avalanches raced towards his tent at Camp One, while massive rockslides blasted through basecamp down below. With nineteen people killed on the mountain, April 25, 2015, became the deadliest day ever on Mount Everest.

Jim conducted scores of media interviews to increase public awareness about Nepal's plight and to raise funds for the battered country's recovery. Although his thirty-year dream of climbing Everest seemed over, Jim returned two years later to try climbing it again.

Like Jon Krakauer's *Into Thin Air* (1997) and the independently developed film *Everest* (2015), this gripping memoir reveals what it feels like to survive a massive tragedy on the world's highest peak. This story is not about "conquering" a mountain. Instead, *The Next Everest* reveals a reflective journey of discovering how enduring change, challenge, and uncertainty prepares a person to face their next Everest in life.

Jim is a high-altitude climber, expedition leader, professional speaker, and *New York Times* bestselling co-author with thirty-seven years of mountaineering experience. He speaks internationally about his 2015 Everest earthquake experience and his successful 2017 climb to the summit.

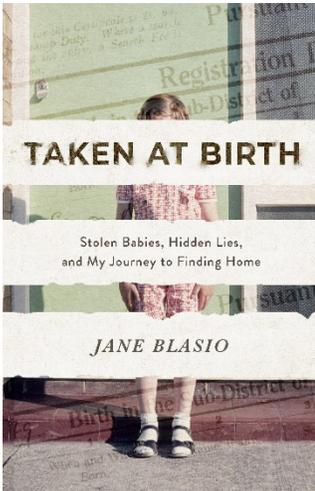
See speakingofadventure.com for details and videos.

Taken at Birth:

Stolen Babies, Hidden Lies, and My Journey to Finding Home

By Jane Blasio Revell/Baker Books, June 2021

Click link to watch trailer: www.youtube.com/watch?v=ESyhEzX7WNo



The sobering term “baby seller” was etched into Jane Blasio’s mind from the moment she began her search for her birth family, dreaming of finding where she belonged, and to whom. Who was this man who sold her? She knew her adoptive parents paid \$1000 for her. The answer lay there.

After searching for over fourteen years, Jane approached a local newspaper to get the word out to anyone born at the Hicks Clinic in McCaysville, Georgia. She knew it was a baby selling op for Doc Hicks from all of the stories she had heard, but she hoped the search for her birth family would go faster with some of the others involved. But her heart nearly stopped when she found out over 200 babies were sold at the clinic. She knew then what she had to do.

The morning of Mothers’ Day, 1997 was when the story hit the front page of the paper and then the AP wire. All hell broke loose in Jane’s life while the word spread. The calls and letters barraged to the tune of 300+ a day in a pre-internet frenzy, asking questions and throwing information at her, hoping to connect their truth to hers. Some McCaysville town folk felt a need to call and defend the town and the good doctor, just like they had fought to keep the secrets 20+ years ago when Jane slipped into town to ask questions. They warned her outsiders shouldn’t be around after dark. Just under fifty adults who came through the Hicks Clinic as babies came forward when the article was published. Soon after, a number of them found themselves sitting on the couch in Jane’s living room with birth certificate in hand. Some cried and asked questions, others were just quiet and stared out the window while Jane shared what she had uncovered. All of them had been lied to their entire lives. A DNA registry was set up. Reunions began between the Hicks Babies and birth families.

A few months into the calls and the media circus, Jane’s phone rang and a soft, southern voice on the other end quietly told her of a woman named Kitty, who as a young teen, lost two babies to the Hicks Clinic. Kitty was living in an old yellow school bus with her husband and infant son when Carlynn first met her, faded curtains hung at deliberate points across the bus to gain some privacy. The bus was actually a step up from the past dwellings. They moved into it after her husband, James, burned down their last shack because he was mad that she had smiled at the postman. Carlynn noted how the very young woman’s beauty and vibrance was already dulled by the ugliness of abuse and neglect. Soon she and Jane developed a friendship and welcomed Jane into their home, just as they had the young, battered wife two decades before. It was as though Jane had finally found her mother in Kitty. However, they would never meet. Kitty was killed in a car accident ten years before Jane exposed Dr. Hicks. However, Jane found it easy to settle as Kitty’s daughter, after scrutinizing the details of Kitty’s life and remnants of her family. And that’s who Jane was for seventeen years, in what she thought was the final filling in of the blanks of her story. She truly believed Kitty was her long lost mother. The soft voice at the other end of the phone line and the friendship with Carlynn which ensued for all those years with stories of Kitty, was enough for her.

Twenty years later, with significant advances in DNA and an uptick in genealogy databases, Jane wanted to find the brother Kitty had given up and what was left of Kitty’s other family. A simple sample of saliva was sent off to a lab and the results revealed soon after. Jane learned she was not Kitty’s daughter, after all. The story binding Kitty to Jane was shattered, blindsiding her. Her mind raced to wrap around what the DNA revealed. Two distinct trails, two first cousins to follow and neither line included Kitty. Everything solid and sure was blown away in one second, everything fought for, gone in an instant. She felt knocked to her knees, grieving that she’d been here before. It took all her strength to push through the haunting sense of having wasted so much time, nevertheless the search began again. Today, Jane continues to assist those who are still bound to the Hicks Clinic and looking for answers. Join her on this part-investigation, part-spiritual quest for restoration, as she recounts the rough and painful journey and how it was worth every moment on the long voyage finding home. For more see: www.JaneBlasio.com

VENGEANCE FOR ALL THINGS

By NYT and International Bestselling Author, International Thriller Award Nominee

Anthony Flacco

Historical Thriller Novel

On Submission to Publishers



This novel is based on the only unsolved terrorist attack in San Francisco history, the Preparedness Day Parade bombing of July 22, 1916. The fictional story is folded into the factual architecture by way of our Protagonists, BIJOU WILDER (18) and her adoptive father SPIKER JORDAN (45). They have recently opened a private investigation agency together, just after her adoptive older brother was killed on his Harley. Bijou adored him, and rides her own bike in his memory. Spiker is a retired detective with a twenty year police career, Bijou is an aggressive and unconventional young woman who rides a Harley Davidson and is an expert at breaking into the homes or hotels of suspects to learn facts the police can't get.

Based on a tip from City Hall and with help from local madam Lazy Ana Bone, they find themselves dragged into a massive plot to set off half a dozen large bombs and as many major fires during the parade, fomented by true life anarchists, publisher Luigi Galleani and bombmaker Mario Buda.

The stated goal is to prevent America from entering the war in order to ensure anarchy in Europe and create a chaos from which to launch a new totalitarian government that will control all of Europe.

What Galleani's fellow conspirators are not aware of is that the entire European plot is a distraction from his real plan -- to tunnel under the San Francisco Mint and blow through the floor, then make off with much of the gold which European nations are hiding in the Mint's vaults until the "Great War" Europe (WWI) is over. This will throw off the balance of power of the entire Western World. Spiker and Bijou are nearly killed when Galleani has their home blown up in an attempt to stop their interference, but they still manage to halt most of the terror plot, while the attack on the Mint fails. Ten people are killed in the Preparedness Day Parade bombing and forty more are injured, but countless others are spared because of the hard work and courage and Jordan and Wilder.

They get help from a local madam named Lazy Ana Bone and a group of her "girls," along with a City Hall employee who was part of the plot at first, but who steps back from it to help out.

At the end, Bijou learns her brother's death was no accident, but that he was killed because he learned of the plot and tried to report it to the corrupted City Hall. This sets her on her next mission.

Book Two, also set against reality, will be set in the Spanish Flu pandemic of 1918 in New York City, as Bijou and Spiker track down the anarchist bombers from San Francisco. They seek justice for Bijou's brother and travel to New York to stop the Wall Street Bombings which they have learned are being planned by the anarchists.

www.AnthonyFlacco.com



Skullduggery and Clusterf*ckery

By Brian Johnston—Currently on Submission

The biggest manhunt in Northwest history was the result of the kidnapping of nine year old George Weyerhaeuser, heir to America's mightiest timber industry. To this day, his great grandfather, Frederick Weyerhaeuser, is still considered the 8th richest man in American history. THIS was a crime even the FBI considered fantastic and absurd.

In 1935, MARGARET WALEY (19) was a newly married Mormon raised in Utah within a deeply religious family. Everything in her background taught her to obey her husband in all matters of the world, while maintaining a safe place from that world inside the home. With the Depression still gripping the nation, she was thrilled when her husband HARMON WALEY (24) brought home a guest for dinner he described as an "old friend." WILLIAM MAHAN (30) was in fact a few years older than Harmon and only knew him because they both served time in the same prison.

Margaret knew of her husband's past, but believed he had turned over a new leaf behind bars, as he claimed. Except for the frustrations of poverty, they were happily married. What she didn't know and wouldn't find out until it was far too late, the two old prison mates had hatched a daring plan to kidnap young GEORGE WEYERHAEUSER from the family home in Seattle, Washington. As a kidnap victim his worth would be huge due to his families wealth and status.

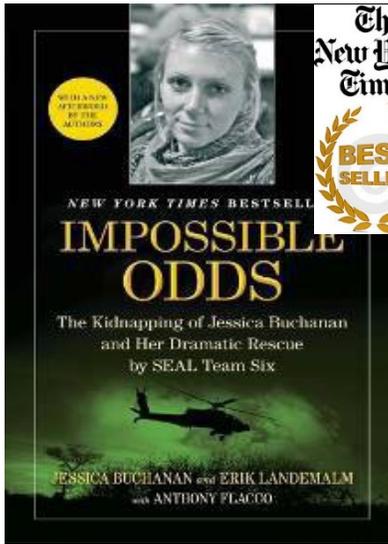
For several weeks, Harmon and his "buddy" William pretended to be looking for work for Harmon, a job such as William claimed to have, as a traveling salesman with a fictitious stove company. The men kept her in the dark while they maneuvered and planned their way through the elaborate setup, and maintained their silence even after they snatched the boy on his way home from school and put him in a small pit dug in his family's own timberland. It was only during this time, with the boy stuffed into the trunk of their car, that Margaret got a glimpse of what the men were doing, when George cried out to be released from that small space.

Margaret's family were all back in Utah, and if they knew what she was involved in, they would likely have considered her a failure as a wife and a Mormon. This was too much for her to contemplate. While she didn't help the men pull off the crime, she did participate by making sure young George was given enough food and water. She didn't have to work for long, since the family paid the \$200,000 ransom and she, her husband, and William Mahan went on the run.

The FBI went to extreme measures to register the serial numbers of all the ransom bills and compile the numbers into a list which was spread across the land. In less than a week, "hot" bills began showing up. When Margaret tried to pass a five dollar ransom bill to purchase a ten-cent cigarette case for her father at a Woolworth's department store, the FBI swooped in. Harmon was apprehended hours later after he burned several thousand dollars of the money in a potbellied stove. His reason was merely another aspect of the clusterf*ckery at play, since he could have just as easily buried that money with the rest of the ransom loot stashed in the mountains. After the Waleys were busted, William Mahan managed to evade the law. He remained on the lam for another year, while in the meantime, the Waleys went to court. Harmon pled guilty and was sentenced to 45 years at Alcatraz and charged twenty bucks for the cost of the prosecution. Utterly despondent, Margaret tried to also plead guilty in solidarity with her husband, even though she knew nothing of the crime until too late. The judge knew she was a pawn in the game and insisted that she go to trial and not merely give up and cop a plea.

The defense portrayed her as a being too stupid to resist the two men's persuasions. The tactic didn't work for her. Since she did not run to the police as soon as she learned George was in their car, she was sentenced to 20 years on a Michigan work farm. On the day she was sentenced she vowed she would count the days, the hours, the minutes before she and her beloved Harmon would be reunited. A loyal Mormon wife to the end. Or so it seemed. Despite her dedication to Harmon during the arrest and trial phase, the accumulation of her experiences during the trial and then behind bars with the other inmates, caused her to declare herself, not long after going inside, "through with marriage, and all men, forever."

A year after the kidnapping, Bill Mahan's luck finally ran out. He was captured in San Francisco, sitting on the running board of his car, sunning himself. He pled guilty and was sentenced to 60 years in Alcatraz. Twenty-eight years after going to prison, Harmon Waley was released. But Margaret had already been paroled and one of the first things she did was divorce Harmon Waley. By then, George Weyerhaeuser was a grown man, and one of the top brass in the Weyerhaeuser organization, just three years shy of becoming president of the company. Waley, now 52-years old, called his former kidnap victim and had the gall to ask George for a job. George Weyerhaeuser, in a breathtaking display of grace and compassion, gave him one. "I think he appreciated it," said George. Margaret asked for nothing and received the same. But once she was out, eight years after her incarceration, she reversed her stance on men and marriage. She eventually did remarry and lived for another fifty years.



IMPOSSIBLE ODDS:

The Kidnapping of Jessica Buchanan and Her Dramatic Rescue by SEAL Team Six

By Jessica Buchanan, Erik Landemalm with Anthony Flacco
Atria/Simon & Schuster

Screenplay available by Anthony Flacco, wga

On October 25, 2011, 32-year-old **Jessica Buchanan** is an attractive American teacher working for a humanitarian NGO in Somalia. She trains local communities on how to avoid the landmines and unexploded munitions that litter the region. But on this day, she and an older male colleague are kidnapped at gunpoint and held for ransom by an organization of Somali pirates who have moved their operations on land. Their number includes traumatized child soldiers who are hooked on drugs supplied by their masters.

An FBI asset sees the attack and within two hours the White House and FBI are already monitoring. They quickly locate the captors out in the desert, but fear that an attack will only result in the captives' deaths. Jessica's sole source of hope among her captors is a Somali man of goodwill, who has only joined the captors because they were going to force his son into their child army. He saved the boy by going in his place. He hates what is happening there but can only give limited support.

For the next three months, Jessica is terrorized by more than two dozen terrorists, some adult and some very young, who carry assault rifles at all times and work themselves into near delirium by chewing addictive khat leaves. She is held outdoors in filthy conditions and kept on a starvation diet while her health and that of her 60-year-old Danish counterpart steadily deteriorates. Negotiations drag. Strangely, her worst tormentor is the youngest, a child soldier of about 12, who appears determined to inflict all the sadism upon others that the world has shown to him. Only Jessica's "friendship" with her one reluctant captor named "Helper," plus her understanding of their culture, allows her to manipulate the men just enough to remain alive. She repeatedly staves off rape and mock execution. But while tied to trees in the Somali wilderness, she slowly succumbs to malnutrition and kidney failure, and only keeps her sanity by visualizing long visits to familiar places.

As the ordeal stretches into its third month, the captors grow increasingly nervous. They worry about turncoats within their own ranks. Nobody can be trusted. The khat leaves fuel paranoia. The aura of the camp shifts to desperation laced with heightened suspicion. The kidnapers become even more agitated when a faint but constant droning sound begins to drift down from somewhere high overhead. It is nearly too soft to hear and never quite identifiable. Nobody can see anything up there, but the noises continue. Their paranoia is correct here; the SEALs are watching everything these men do.

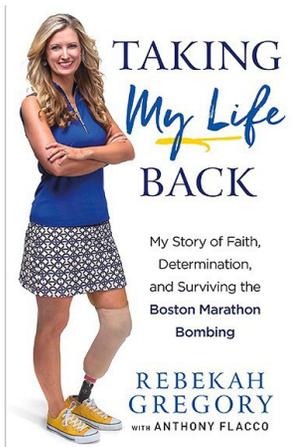
Throughout the ordeal, every moment Jessica Buchanan spends suffering in captivity is matched by that of her adoring husband of less than three years, **Erik Landemalm (35)**, a humanitarian aid worker who manipulates tribal chiefs to circulate false gossip and confuse the kidnapers. While SEAL Team Six rehearses their potential raid, Erik bolsters the hunt for her by acting as liaison between their two families, the FBI, professional hostage negotiators, and the United States Government.

During those torturous months, they are teased by rare chances to communicate for a display of "Proof of Life," and tormented by the kidnapers' unexplained silences and psychotic outbursts. Their long midnight of the soul tests their individual resolve as well as their faith in one another. Finally, after 93 days of fruitless negotiations, Jessica's rapidly failing health raises her medical state to a life and death issue. President Obama secretly orders Seal Team Six to raid the location. The violent rescue by 24 SEALs is played out in detail, from their rehearsals to the parachute drop, to the attack itself. It is January 25, 2012, and while the President delivers his State of the Union speech to a national television audience, the rescue team parachutes from a C-130 under cover of darkness, hikes two miles to the location, and attacks the heavily armed hostiles on duty that night. All are killed with no harm to the hostages, who are quickly airlifted out on a military rescue helicopter.

Today Jessica is a young mother of a son and daughter, a motivational speaker and serves as Goodwill Ambassador for the Navy Seal Foundation. For more about Jessica, see www.JessBuchanan.com

Watch 60 Minutes: <http://www.cbsnews.com/news/the-rescue-of-jessica-buchanan/>





TAKING MY LIFE BACK

**My Story of Faith, Determination,
and Surviving the Boston Marathon Bombing**

By Rebekah Gregory with Anthony Flacco

Revell/Baker Publishing April 4, 2017

"It is impossible to remain unmoved by Gregory's emotional, open memoir of surviving the Boston Marathon bombing in 2013. This is a truly feel-good book that doesn't stint on the challenges that life throws at us."

****--Publishers Weekly, starred review***

Ripped from news headlines around the world, Rebekah Gregory's book Taking My Life Back is the riveting story of a survivor of the Boston Marathon terrorist attack. It's transparent. It's compelling. It's hopeful. But Rebekah is not only a survivor, She's an overcomer! And she has the scars on the inside and outside to show for her journey to a new normal. Taking My Life Back is a rollercoaster triumph of faith over, depression, defeat and evil. -Don Piper, 90 Minutes in Heaven

Rebekah Gregory, 29, survived the Boston Marathon bombing of 2013 along with her son Noah, now 8, and then-boyfriend Pete DiMartino. The three were at the finish line, waiting for DiMartino's mom to cross, when the explosions happened.

Months of physical therapy – not to mention emotional healing – followed for all three, and Gregory was ultimately fitted with a prosthetic leg.

This is a faith-based story, and much of it follows the feelings of emotional isolation and occasional spiritual panic. She wrestles with the traumatic life events and insults to her existence that keep her from sensing her connection to God. She experiences a terrible inner aloneness which she can hide from most other people, but it constantly torments her.

The goal of her story is to help troubled people pull back from the edge of despair. "If I've learned one lesson, it's that each of the hardest chapters in your life brings you to the most beautiful ones of all. You just have to keep going long enough to get there." The thoughts she offers in her book and her speaking engagements provide an avenue to hope.

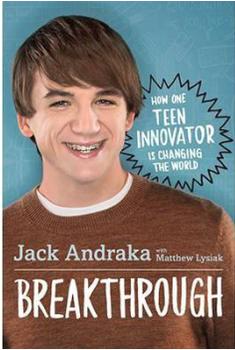
She is now happily married to Chris Varney, and although new daughter Ryleigh arrived in a very premature delivery, their little girl is now healthy and living at home.

Gregory received Boston City permission to run the final mile of the 2015 Boston Marathon on her brand-new artificial leg. She made it to the finish line, but admits she still has PTSD and ongoing difficulties with her injured leg.

Her message is especially strong with those who are struggling with despair. "There's nothing I wouldn't give to go back to life before I ever went to the Boston Marathon, but I can't," she shares. "What I can do is appreciate every new moment I'm given. If I have that ability when I wake up every day, what more could I ask for? I just want to be a mom that one day my kids will be proud of." www.RebekahMGregory.com

In 2018, Rebekah founded the nonprofit REBEKAH'S ANGELS, a 501C-3 designed to provide help and support for children suffering from PTSD. www.RebekahsAngels.org 

Watch this 4/12/19 video of Rebekah talking about the foundation here: <http://tinyurl.com/y3borrmv>



BREAKTHROUGH

How One Teen Innovator Is Changing the World

By Jack Andraka with Matthew Lysiak
HarperCollins

“The Youth of Doogie Howser meets the Tormented Genius of Alan Turing”

At the age of fifteen, following the death from pancreatic cancer of a family friend, Jack recognized the need for inexpensive early detection methods, and came up with a detection test. This test has the ability to detect pancreatic, ovarian, and lung cancer in its earliest stages. It costs only three cents to run and has an accuracy rate higher than 90 percent.

Growing up in a house where his parents encouraged and nurtured their children to conduct scientific experiments, Jack grew up taking his abilities seriously. The scientific world was hesitant at first. In his quest to devise the cancer detection test, he had contacted 200 research professionals with a detailed plan, budget, timeline, and request to use their laboratory. Jack only received one acceptance letter—but one was all he needed. Dr. Anirban Maitra, Professor of Pathology, Oncology and Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering at John Hopkins School of Medicine granted him lab privileges based upon Jack’s proposal.

The groundbreaking results earned him international recognition, most notably earning the \$75,000 Intel Gordon E. Moore Award for 2012, plus the Smithsonian American Ingenuity Award. He was the First Lady's personal guest at the State of the Union Address and has conducted over a dozen TED talks. Jack has been featured on CNN, BBC, FOX, 60 Minutes, The Colbert Report, and ABC World News with Diane Sawyer.

Now in his upcoming memoir, the boy wonder sets his sights on shattering educational myths and biases by bringing his inspirational story to bear in proving that in order to make a positive change in this world, you don’t need a PhD or even to be old enough to drive a car. “It’s just your ideas that count. It’s all about looking at learning itself, including a deeper understanding of how to use the internet for research. “There’s so much more to it than just posting duck-face pictures of yourself online. You could be changing the world.”

Jack’s message of education reform is one sorely needed because in today’s classrooms, student proficiency in reading, math, and science continues to drop.

“Currently, science classes typically consist of banal consumption and regurgitation of facts. However, that model is simply not effective because it skews students’ perception of what science truly is. Science is something you do, not something you learn from a textbook.”

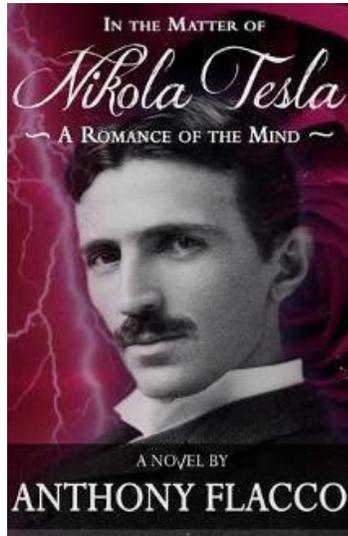
Jack's memoir chronicles his efforts in proving his abilities and innovative ideas, despite his young age. Targeted toward a teenage readership, Jack’s story encourages his generation to approach their pursuits, whatever they may be, with an attitude of determination and gumption.

“If a 15-year-old who didn’t even know what a pancreas was could find a new way to detect pancreatic cancer, just imagine what you could do...” For more see: www.JackAndraka.com

60 Minutes: <http://www.cbsnews.com/news/boy-wonder-jack-andraka>

“You Don’t Know Jack” Micro Documentary by Morgan Spurlock:
www.focusforwardfilms.com/films/78/you-don-t-know-jack





IN THE MATTER OF NIKOLA TESLA:

A Romance of the Mind

**By NYT Bestselling Author Anthony Flacco
Diversion Books**

Screenplay available upon request

From the 1890s through 1942, this true story follows genius NIKOLA TESLA, arguably the most influential inventor in history and certainly the most unfairly ignored— his powerful work even exceeded that of the venerated Thomas Edison. The portrayal of this tall, handsome figure is historically accurate. There have been many failed attempts to tell the Nikola Tesla story, mainly because of the difficulty of humanizing this eccentric loner. So, in this new twist on a true story, that challenge is met by the underlying tale of that romantic life which is his finest secret of all.

The story's romantic element begins when Nikola is still very young, on the night that his MUSE comes to him in the form of a beautiful woman. This is not fantasy; Tesla himself tried on several occasions to tell others about his unseen Muse but was repeatedly rebuffed. The premise of this story merely takes the man at his own word.

The story tells how Tesla, though handsome and charming, lived a self-chosen life of isolation— a “monk” to his calling of electronic invention. Over time he is supported by George Westinghouse, betrayed by J. P. Morgan, befriended by Mark Twain, and repeatedly victimized by the Robber Barons of the day.

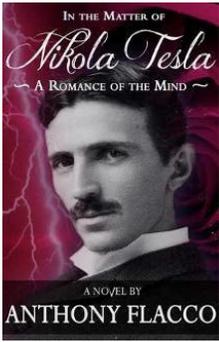
Throughout his life, Tesla’s secret Muse follows him, bringing him visions of miraculous inventions. She is invisible to others but exquisitely real to him. It is for her, for the life and the work that she shares with him, that this gallant, passionate gentleman maintains a loner's life even when he is working among others.

Tesla’s contemporaries could never understand his lifelong avoidance of truly personal relationships, but the reason is plain to us; although his Muse alternately blesses and curses him, she remains Tesla’s best secret— even when she is a fierce companion.

For more about Anthony, see www.AnthonyFlacco.com



Sizzle Reel: [Tesla Trailer](#)



NIKOLA TESLA

6 Part Limited Dramatic Series

Adapted from the Novel by Anthony Flacco, wga/w

*** Full Treatment Available ***

This proposed **six part limited dramatic historical** series with potential for ongoing series is told through the POV of mega-rich financier, **J.P. MORGAN** in following the life of the brilliant inventor Nikola Tesla. It is told through the eyes of those who work with him, work against him, spy on him, believe in him, and betray him. The story follows a five-year timeline from 1899 to 1904. For Morgan, the Great Question is simple: what drives this revolutionary scientific genius -- and does the answer threaten Morgan's empire?

WHY J.P. MORGAN?

These six episodes are told principally from Morgan's POV because he is the reason for the failure of Tesla's plan for Universal Free Energy. Morgan is the source of the blackball put on Tesla by Wall St. investors. Plainly put, J.P. Morgan single-handedly destroyed the career of Nikola Tesla.

But as the story will show, he had no other choice, given the information he possessed. Tesla wasn't dangerous because he was wrong; he was dangerous because he was right. If Morgan hadn't stopped Tesla, then for better or worse, there is no doubt the world would be much different today. And in Morgan's view that meant disaster, either from Tesla himself or from the people given his machines and tearing up the planet with their carelessness.

J.P. Morgan's museum-quality office is the lair of the 19th Century Alpha Male, with oversized Victorian furniture calculated to impress, intimidate. There he pulls in other people (Mark Twain, George Westinghouse, Tesla assistant George Scherff) to ask about Tesla and get their perception of the man. Morgan has massive investments at stake, perhaps entire industries, and he has to know whether or not to continue backing Tesla's experiments or cut him off and leave him dry. The stories these men tell are played out in Morgan's visionary imagination, while *none of them agree* on who this strange man is.

Each time one of them begins telling about Tesla, the narrative begins as seen from their POV, however the POV quickly switches to that of J.P. Morgan, while he visualizes what he is being told. HIS version never makes the speaker or the subject look very good. Everybody in Morgan's POV is always noticeably more unkempt in appearance and slow of speech.

HERE'S HOW THE POV CHANGES ARE USED:

Author Mark Twain looks at Tesla and sees a beautiful genius doomed to be derailed by human stupidity. Tesla plays out exactly that way in Twain's POV.

But while Morgan listens to the famous author, the narrative switches to his POV and shows a decadent writer of trivial popular novels who is speaking up for a dangerously eccentric inventor.

George Westinghouse tells Morgan about his associations with Tesla. In financing the Niagara Falls power system for Tesla, using Morgan's money, he has come to see Tesla as an inventive man. But he sees Tesla's naivety as proving his genius to be over-rated.

Of course, while Morgan listens, the narrative shifts to his POV and reveals that he regards Westinghouse as an uncultured “lucky winner” in business. In Morgan’s POV, Westinghouse is a rather unintelligent bore who can barely keep Tesla listening to him when he speaks. Morgan dismisses the worth of his responses, lights a cigar, and begins to sing an idle tune under his breath while Westinghouse drones on.

As for George Scherff, Tesla’s longtime assistant is so kind in his version of Tesla that Morgan accuses him of covering up for his boss. But Scherff persists in telling of a solitary genius who lives most of his life inside his head, where he entertains a “muse” who may be invisible, but who is real to him.

Scherff insists Tesla’s motives are pure. His POV shows Tesla as a passionate romantic with a vivid personal imagination. Scherff tells how he sometimes watches Tesla’s revels from the shadows, a guilty voyeur filled with admiration.

But while Morgan listens, his POV overlaps Scherff’s, and now both Scherff and Tesla come across as “a fool and his servant,” sloppily attired and slower of speech. Morgan sees what the genius cannot: the proposed World Power System would concentrate all broadcasting of electrical power as well as all forms of information to a handful of Tesla Towers around the globe. The commercial and military challenges to seize control of them would never end.

In this way we come to understand why the great J. Pierpont Morgan, more financially powerful than the United States government, will see to it that this man must be stopped. The fact that Nikola Tesla has already conceived, designed, and installed the first electrical generators at Niagara Falls doesn’t speak in his favor-- it proves he must be stopped.

And so, although the Niagara Falls power station is a model for the world’s emerging power grid, Tesla will die in 1943 too poor to pay his own light bill.

According to J.P. Morgan, civilization dodged a bullet.



HIDDEN GIRL

The True Story of a Modern-Day Child Slave

By Shyima Hall
With Lisa Wysocky
Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers

Scripted Treatment Available

When Shyima Hall was eight years old her poverty-stricken Egyptian parents, overwhelmed with close to a dozen children, sold her into slavery. The price? 17 dollars a month. The wealthy Cairo couple who bought Shyima moved to California two years later and brought the little girl into the US illegally.

As a child slave, Shyima Hall had no friends or family, no emotional support whatsoever. She did not speak a word of English and, after moving to the US, was thousands of miles and an ocean away from everything that was familiar to her. On top of that, a terrorized Shyima was forced to toil 16 or more hours a day, seven days a week for her captor's family, which included five children—some of whom were near her age. At night, Shyima slept on a squalid mattress in a windowless garage. A bucket and some water were all she had in which to wash herself and her clothes; and she was forbidden from going to school. Shyima never visited a doctor or dentist, even when she was ill with the flu. Additionally, her captors continually berated her and often slapped her.

While Shyima was rarely allowed outside the home, a neighbor began to suspect something was not quite right. Rumors abounded, with glimpses of a small dark-haired girl during times children her age should have been in bed. In 2002, possibly acting on a tip from a neighbor, child welfare authorities rescued Shyima. US Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) investigated her case, and her captors were eventually prosecuted and imprisoned.

At the time of her rescue, 13-year-old Shyima decided to stay in the US. She hasn't returned to Egypt or seen her family since. While Shyima may have been isolated during her slavery, she was not alone. From 2010-11, US federal immigration officials launched 651 investigations into human trafficking and arrested roughly 300 people. According to the United States State Department, there are more than 12 million people entrapped in some form of slavery worldwide.

While Shyima could have chosen to fade into obscurity, she has decided on a much different path. Now 26, Shyima speaks to groups across the country about combating human trafficking and has often briefed ICE agents about the emotional and physical trauma that victims endure. Shyima's dream is to become a federal agent for ICE to help crack down on human trafficking and free the enslaved. And, she took a major step toward that goal in December 2011 when she became a citizen of the United States.



Hidden Girl empowers readers to step up when they believe a wrong is being committed. If not for a concerned neighbor, Shyima might still be ensnared in the web of slavery. This first-person, 65,000-word narrative details Shyima's difficult Egyptian childhood and her challenging years as a slave. Her assimilation into foster homes, school, eventual adoption, and request for legal emancipation is shown through the rare point of view of a young teen experiencing both freedom and the culture of the United States for the first time.

Shyima's many firsts are also shared. Imagine being 13 and never having seen the inside of a school, been to a movie or a store, eaten at a restaurant, or made a friend. These emotional firsts are told with honest humility and wonder and come with their own unique set of challenges. The story culminates with Shyima triumphantly standing before a federal judge and being sworn in as a naturalized citizen of the United States.

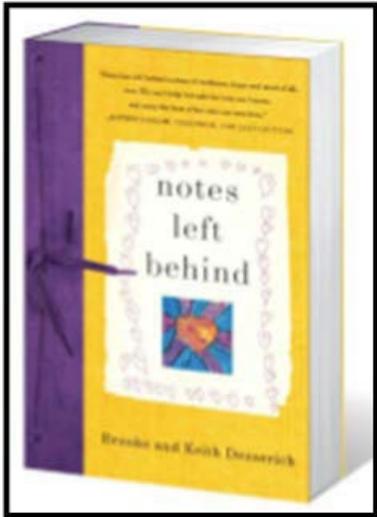
Watch AP story: [AP Video Story](#)

Watch interview with Shyima on Tavis Smiley, March 2014 <http://video.pbs.org/video/2365210010/>

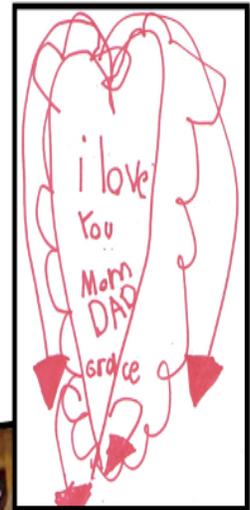
NOTES LEFT BEHIND

By Keith and Brooke Desserich

William Morrow/HarperCollins Translated in 24 languages



It started with just one girl and became a movement among millions that will change the way a world fights cancer. **Notes Left Behind** is a story that Elena's parents never wanted to tell; the story of love, compassion and six-year-old Elena's heroic fight against cancer. From cereal kisses in the morning to trying on wedding dresses far too early, and to the simplest action of holding hands with their daughters on the way to school, the Desserich's book has been called "The Last Lecture for parents."



It began with a series of notes left by Elena for her younger sister Gracie as a form of remembrance and was soon followed by thousands of mothers and fathers who heard the story on the internet and were each inspired to appreciate and love their own children in more clear and present ways. Learning to value the smaller moments in life over the milestones, the Desserich family passed on the lessons of their children in touching journal entries that captured the joy and passion of a family who discovers the true value of life in drinking deeply of the day.

But it was after Elena's passing and the completion of the journal, that the Desserich's soon discovered the most important lesson their daughter was to leave behind. Finishing a remodeling project that began prior to her diagnosis, they began to find hundreds of notes hidden throughout the house from Elena – each with a simple message of love and compassion. And in doing so, Elena would leave her own notes and memories that would endure today. Within days of its initial release in the US, **Notes Left Behind** immediately became a New York Times Bestseller, receiving the attention of The Today Show, CNN, Good Morning America, People Magazine, AOL.com, Yahoo.com, Air America, Inside Edition and beyond. Soon it developed a worldwide following with over 25 different foreign language translations continuing into 2010.



Written as a celebration of Elena's life, the inspirational **Notes Left Behind** accomplishes the impossible through the charity created in her honor, The Cure Starts Now. Developed as a calling to fight those cancers that experts believe will offer us a cure for all cancers, it represents a revolutionary cancer strategy that has never before been proposed. And today this "homerun" cure strategy sweeps the world with over 20 chapters and thousands of sponsors. All US and Canadian author proceeds benefit www.TheCureStartsNow.org

"This is a stunning story that teaches us how precious children, family and life are, and that the sacrifices we make are worth it. I won't forget the Desserich family, and neither will you." —**James Patterson, Renowned Author**

For more on the story, see www.NotesLeftBehind.com

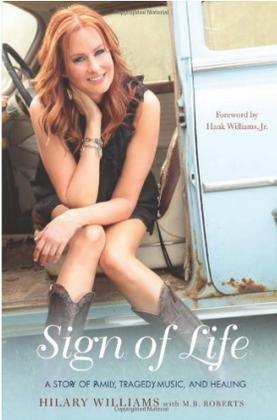


View the book trailer: [Notes Left Behind Book Trailer](#)

SIGN OF LIFE

A Story of Family, Tragedy, Music and Healing

By Hilary Williams, Daughter of Hank Williams Jr., With M.B. Roberts
DaCapo Press/Perseus Books



From the time she was eight-years-old, singer-songwriter Hilary Williams lived with an empty place in her heart. It was the year her parents divorced, and it hurt – still hurts. She felt as though she lost her father, country music superstar Hank Williams, Jr., even though he wasn't around much anyway.

Hilary never knew her famous grandfather, country music icon Hank Williams, who died tragically nearly thirty years before she was born. Another piece of the empty place in her heart. Warren White, her maternal grandfather was different. She knew him well and loved him dearly. He died in the early spring of 2006. Hilary would strive to fill part of the empty space with his memory.

It's a sunny March day. Hilary, 26, and her sister Holly, 24, are driving down a rural stretch of Mississippi road en route from Nashville to Louisiana for their grandfather Warren's funeral. Back in Tennessee, their father, Hank Williams, Jr., sits in a barber's chair while his pilot readies his private plane to fly him to the service. Hilary and Holly's mother, Becky, along with their grandmother, aunts and many cousins are in Louisiana preparing for the funeral.

The girls are riding along when Hilary reaches for her iPod. In an instant, the car hits a series of ruts in the road, flips violently four times and lands mangled on its side. Holly's arm is trapped under the car. Hilary is dangling upside down with crushing injuries to her collarbone, hips and legs. Hilary's blood loss is massive and just as a Life flight helicopter lands and EMT's rush to her aid, she dies.

Hilary is transported during a vivid Near-Death experience. She sees a glittering vision of heaven and is comforted by her deceased grandparents, Hank and Audrey Williams, as well as her Godparents, Johnny and June Carter Cash. Then, she is brought back as EMT's heroically revive her using an experimental blood substitute. Holly, whose injuries are less severe, is flown to the hospital in Memphis followed by a helicopter carrying Hilary, who is barely grasping onto life.

Becky, who received a chilling phone call from the accident scene where she could hear Holly's screams, leaves her father's wake and heads to Memphis. Hank Jr. diverts his plane from Louisiana to Memphis, arriving just in time to see Hilary, cold and pale, being wheeled into surgery. Hours later, Hilary wakes to find her father holding her hand and weeping softly at her bedside. Later, he recounts details of his own near-fatal accident when he fell off a mountain twenty years ago. The revelation that Hank Jr. and Hilary were the exact same age when both nearly died – and memories of Hank Sr. dying at the height of his fame in the backseat of a car—begs the question: Is there a Williams curse?

Back-to-back surgeries – eventually she will endure 23-- fill the first few days in Memphis, where Hilary stays for a month. A National Enquirer reporter dressed as a plumber tries to get into Hilary's room. Hank Jr.'s close friend Kid Rock visits. Doctors warn Becky that they may have to take her leg in order to save her life.

Hilary's diabetes causes complications during surgery after surgery performed to repair her shattered body. During one particularly excruciating physical therapy session, her doctor tells her that "Pain is a sign of life." This is a mantra she won't forget.

Six weeks after the accident, Hilary comes home to her mother's house in Nashville. She stays in a hospital bed in the living room for six months. Becky and Holly dress her, bathe her, and help her go to the bathroom. Humbling to say the least. Often alone with her thoughts, Hilary remembers childhood traumas (her mother crying in the arms of her best friend Jessie Colter after her parents' split, being diagnosed with juvenile diabetes), as well as happy memories (a poolside party at Waylon Jennings' house, Johnny Cash singing happy birthday to her over the phone). She has bizarre recollections (fans shooting off guns in the driveway in tribute to Hank Jr., house sitting for half-brother Shelton, a.k.a. Hank III, at his haunted house). She also thinks of her grandfather, who endured back surgery and became hooked on painkillers similar to those she is taking.

Karen Pryor, a therapist who is part-drill sergeant, part-sweet preschool teacher, pushes Hilary to learn to walk as she struggles with severe pain and frustration. After a follow-up surgery, Hilary begins the entire process from scratch. Then, unexpectedly, the "permanent" rod in her leg breaks. Disheartened, she struggles to learn to walk yet again. Depression sets in. She is cheered by visits from her half-brother Sam, and half-sister Katie, who she loves dearly despite her dislike of their mother.

Fear of permanent damage to her vocal cords (due to intubation while she was hospitalized) and her waning confidence prevent Hilary from singing at first. She is afraid to try. She also fights feelings of jealousy towards Holly, whose singing career is taking off. Nonetheless, Hilary starts voice lessons and despite being wheelchair-bound, also begins to date. Three years after the accident, Hilary performs a concert at a small venue in Nashville. The place is packed, and she meets her goal of walking onto the stage unassisted. She brings down the house when she sings "Sign of Life," the inspirational song she wrote about her life-changing experience. The moment onstage is more than a happy ending. It's the beginning of a young woman's life. Still to be seen is how Hilary Williams, who found deep layers of determination during her recovery, will fit into the legacy of her famous family. <http://www.soundlikenashville.com/news/hilary-williams-debut-album-lucky-scars/>

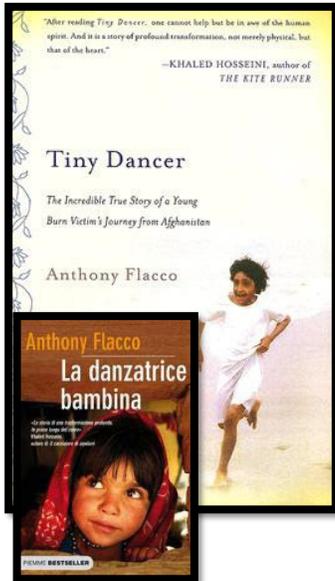
TINY DANCER

The Incredible True Story of a Young Burn Victim's Journey from Afghanistan
(Over 350,000 sold in Italy)

By Anthony Flacco

St. Martin's Press

A Female Version of "WONDER"



Author Anthony Flacco speaks passionately on behalf of the innate and often overlooked goodness in the American character. This true story begins with a number of anonymous American G.I.'s during the early anti-Taliban battles in Afghanistan, whose generosity eventually sends one horribly burned Afghan girl halfway around the world to an American hospital.

Months later, she stepped into an American school classroom and remained there for most of a year. The upshot of this story is that the American soldiers and military doctors, after months of secretly defying military regulations about diverting medical services away from combat wounded and toward local populations, arranged for a two-year journey of miracles for one horribly burned, forgotten little girl from a nomadic desert clan.

Today, she is a symbol of the Middle East's emerging woman. *Tiny Dancer* is a heart-felt and inspiring story of incredible courage equally matched by kindness. Zubaida was previously on the Oprah Winfrey Show, and Diane Sawyer called her story "profoundly moving".

After reading TINY DANCER, one cannot help but be in awe of the human spirit. And it is a story of profound transformation, not merely physical, but that of the heart."

— Khaled Hosseini, *The Kite Runner*

"From the first paragraph, we were mesmerized by Zubaida's experience. It is a compelling journey that stretches across the barriers of religion, nationality, and politics to tell a tale of bravery and fierce determination. Quite simply it is the most compelling, inspirational and triumphant story we've ever read."

— Linda and Jerry Bruckheimer

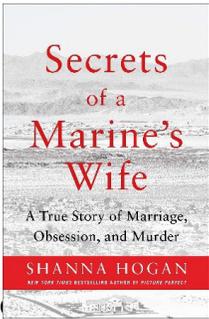


View the book trailer: [Tiny Dancer Book Trailer](#)

www.AnthonyFlacco.com



TRUE CRIME



SECRETS OF A MARINE'S WIFE

By NYT Bestselling Author Shanna Hogan

St. Martin's Press, Feb. 2019

OPTIONED TO LIFETIME/SONY TELEVISION

"Another page turner...this sad, essentially tragic story will move many."

-Publishers Weekly

If an abandoned mineshaft in the remote Southern California desert lay the lifeless body of a pregnant marine wife. **For seven weeks in 2014, the 140-foot deep pit entombed the remains of 19-year-old Erin Corwin.**

By the time searchers discovered Erin, her corpse was severely decomposed—her once pretty face, unrecognizable. Twisted around the rotting flesh of her neck, was a makeshift garrote, fashioned from nylon cord and rebar.



It was a horrific end to the life of kind and compassionate young woman who grew up riding horses in rural Tennessee before moving to California with her high school sweetheart. In the summer of 2014, Erin's disappearance had launched an intense police investigation, which attracted the local and national media to the military base in 29 Palms, California, where the young wife had lived with her marine husband, Cpl. Jonathan Corwin. Early on the morning of June 28—the last day she was seen alive—Erin departed her home in her blue Toyota Corolla, telling Jonathan she was headed to Joshua Tree National Park to scout potential new activities to do with her mother during an upcoming visit.

That week, Erin also planned to reveal to her mom the thrilling news that she was two-months pregnant but unbeknownst to Jonathan, Erin was hiding a dangerous secret. For six months, she had been cheating on her husband with one of his friend's, 25-year-old fellow marine and father of two, Christopher Lee. The Corwins and Lees had been neighbors and the two couples were initially close before an attraction developed between Erin and Christopher, igniting a secret affair.

On the last day of her life, instead of exploring the park, Erin was meeting her lover. Despite the fact they were both married, Erin believed the desert excursion was part of Christopher's plan to propose. In a text message to her friend, Erin excitedly revealed she was expecting an engagement ring.

"The location is only half the surprise," Erin wrote. "He said he's honestly not sure how I'm going to react ... Seriously, I don't know why he would drag me to a very special place ... for a big dumb surprise."

Erin texts about Christopher were peppered with emoticons and "LOLs." Then, she mentioned something foreboding, stating Christopher had planned the desert trip as a romantic getaway, but that he also expected to hunt and was bringing a gun.

Police and prosecutors contend that Christopher's real surprise for Erin was monstrous and cruel. Believing he was the father of her baby, he lured his lover into the desert to murder her in desperate attempt to hide the affair, prosecutors say. Friends later told police that Christopher was concerned that his wife would divorce him if he knew he had gotten Erin pregnant

Following Erin's disappearance, after seven years in the Marines, Christopher was honorably discharged and moved his family to Alaska. Soon after, Erin's abandoned vehicle was located about two miles from the military base off a road near her home. A single set of footprints led from the driver's side door and disappeared next to a set of vehicle tracks that matched the tires on Christopher's Jeep. Ten spent shell casings from a .40 caliber gun were located in Christopher's Jeep.

The search for Erin's body led to the high desert where more than 1,000 abandoned mineshafts blight the desert. Investigators combed about 100 of them before finding Erin. The day her body was recovered, Christopher Lee was arrested in Alaska and extradited to California where he stood trial in San Bernardino, CA in 2016.

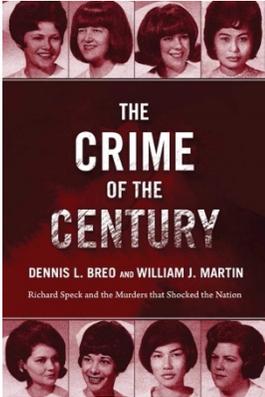
www.ShannaHogan.com

THE CRIME OF THE CENTURY

Richard Speck and the Murders That Shocked a Nation

By Dennis L. Breo and William J. Martin

Skyhorse, 2016



A detective cuts the police tape and five men enter the scene of the crime, a small, boxy, two-story townhouse on the south side of Chicago. Here, some 13 days earlier, Richard Franklin Speck, a drifter from Dallas, had broken into the townhouse, which served as a dorm for six American nursing students and three Filipino exchange nurses, and savagely stabbed, strangled, and killed eight young women in a violent sexual rampage. One nurse, the tiny Corazon Amurao, miraculously survived by hiding under a bed behind a hanging blanket. Cora's eyewitness description and a match of fingerprints left on a bedroom door had identified Speck as the killer.

Now, as the five men step around congealed blood on the floors of the upstairs bedrooms, Speck's killing fields, they vow to bring the killer to justice. Team Speck, as the prosecutors will come to be known, are led by Bill Martin, 29, the father of four, including two young daughters. Earlier this day, Martin had locked in his office safe a priceless piece of evidence – 22 pages of handwritten notes and townhouse diagrams provided by a Filipino translator who had interviewed Cora in her native Tagalog. It tells Martin exactly how Speck, who had been whiling away the hours in a seaman's hiring hall across the street from the townhouse, had carried out his barbaric attack.

Martin, charged with prosecuting Chicago's most-famous killer since Al Capone, hardens his heart and steels himself for the hard work ahead. He tells his colleagues: "If we win this case, nobody will ever remember us; if we lose it, nobody will ever forget us."

As the 14-hour days blur into months, the young prosecutor has one overriding concern—protecting the emotional and psychological health of his star witness. Only three months removed from a rural hamlet in the Philippines, Cora has survived a night of unimaginable evil and could easily repress her terrifying memories. While Speck was raping his final victim, the horrified Cora was only a few feet away, under a bunk bed, eyes closed and head pressed against the floor, furiously praying.

After the killer had disappeared into the night, she slowly loosened the bindings on her ankles and wrists, crawled out of her hiding space, walked over the dead bodies of her friends, pushed open a bedroom window, climbed onto a townhouse ledge, and screamed for 20 minutes: "They are all dead! Oh, my God, they are all dead!"

Martin knows he must protect the fragile Cora, or his case may be lost. Reporters want interviews about her story of survival and major magazines are offering to pay a lot of money for that story, which would prejudice the State's case; the hospital wants her to return to work, but she is afraid she may make mistakes; the Philippine consulate wants to control her actions, but she wants to make her own decisions. Demonstrating remarkable integrity, Cora, who comes from a very poor family, turns down all offers of paid interviews and firmly states that she wants only "to honor the memory of my friends."

In the first of many bold moves, Martin decides he must "kidnap" Cora and her mother and cousin,

who have been flown to Chicago from the Philippines by an American magazine and place them in the witness protection program under 24/7 police protection at an undisclosed location. As the months pass, Cora puts her trust in her well-chosen police bodyguards, “Jacques” and “Jeem,” as she calls Jack Wallenda and Jim Georgalas, and also in Martin, who brings his young children to splash around in a swimming pool with the Amurao clan.

Four months will pass before Martin begins to prepare Cora to testify. With pen and legal notepad before him, Martin is afraid he may blunder in his questioning and cause Cora to repress her memories. But with a Pepsi-Cola in hand (“I just drink Pepsi,” she says), Cora is composed and unflinching as she explains and diagrams how Speck moved the nurses about the townhouse bedrooms. She is determined to help Martin avenge the murder of her friends.

The painstaking preparation will pay off in April 1967, when Cora is reunited with Speck in a court of law. One veteran criminal reporter will describe her as “as a blend of steel and lace” and the “best trial witness I have ever seen.” Martin will have little need for his notes as he and Cora settle into a grooved routine in which Martin perfectly pitches a question and Cora perfectly throws back the answer. It is like a game of catch and both are throwing strikes. Before answering, Cora looks at Martin and then speaks directly to the jurors on her right. Using a scale model of the townhouse built by the FBI and figurines to represent the nurses, Cora explains and demonstrates to the astounded jurors precisely how the killer carried out his night of horrors. Asked by Martin if the killer is in the courtroom, Cora steps down from the witness chair, walks to within a foot of Speck, points at his pockmarked face and vacant stare, and declares in an unwavering voice: “This is the man!”

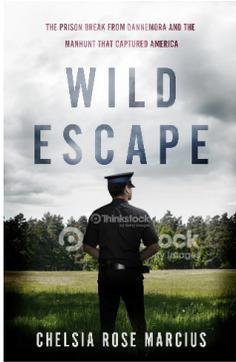
The jurors require only **49 minutes** to return a death sentence.

WILD ESCAPE:

The Prison Break from Dannemora and the Manhunt that Captured America

By Chelsia Rose Marcius

Diversion Books, Feb. 27, 2018



On June 6, 2015, inmates Richard Matt and David Sweat escaped from New York State's largest maximum-security prison, Clinton Correctional Facility. The media became instantly obsessed with the story: two convicted murderers sliced their way through the brick and steel wall of their cells, meandered through a maze of tunnels, popped out of a manhole, and walked off into the night. Only a handful of inmates had successfully broken out of Clinton since the facility opened in 1845, and not many have made the attempt. Barbed wire, concrete walls and the wilderness of the Adirondacks all serve as physical and psychological barriers to freedom. The seemingly impossible Shawshank-esque escape had the makings of a Hollywood film, and the public hung on to every twist and turn in the developing plot.

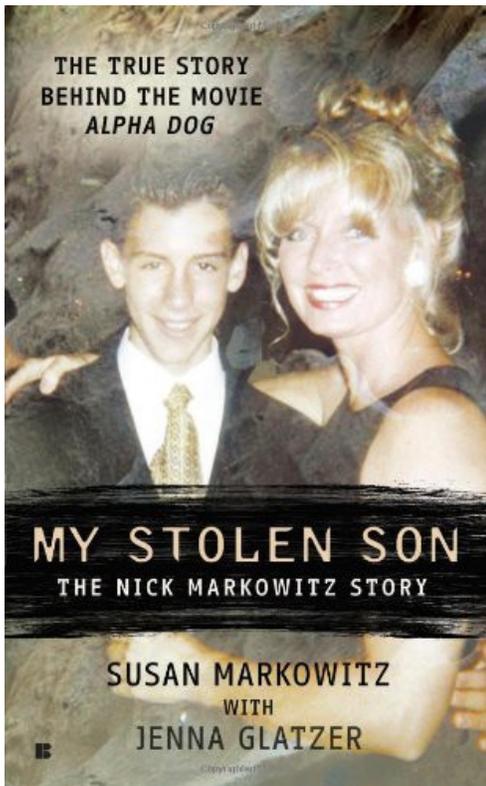
After nearly three weeks on the run, U.S. Customs and Border Patrol agent Christopher Voss shot and killed Matt June 26, 2015. Two days later New York State Police Sgt. Jay Cook shot Sweat twice in the back. He survived. While we have come to learn *how* Matt and Sweat pulled off perhaps the most elaborate modern-day prison break, no reporter, **except Chelsia Rose Marcius**, has talked directly to Sweat to ask perhaps the most important question in the case: *Why?* Marcius has visited David Sweat over a dozen times at Five Points Correctional Facility in Romulus, New York, where he is currently serving out a life sentence. She has spent more than 35 hours discussing his childhood, his adolescence, his family, his time at Clinton, his plan to break out, and she will continue spend even more time with him in the coming months. Sweat has shared some of the most intimate details of his life with Ms. Marcius that have never been reported, including his time at various shelters, group homes, and the sexual abuse he suffered at the hands of his older sister, Tilly Tuttle. Ms. Marcius has conducted a number of interviews with other individuals from Sweat's past to corroborate his story. These include conversations with Tuttle — also a victim of sexual abuse at the hands of their father, Floyd Kenyon— his mother, Pamela Sweat, and Shawn Devaul, the key witness in the 2002 murder of Broome County Sheriff's Deputy Kevin Tarsia, the crime that landed Sweat behind bars for life. Like David Sweat, Tuttle and Devaul have yet to talk to a reporter until now.



Ms. Marcius is a staff reporter at the *New York Daily News* covering crime and national breaking news. She has been interviewed many times on radio and television, including MSNBC, BBC Radio, Fox 5 New York and Inside Edition, to discuss her work. Ms. Marcius has broken exclusive stories while covering some of the some of the biggest national news events of the past four years, including the escape of inmates David Sweat and Richard Matt, the mass shooting in Orlando at Pulse nightclub, the massacre of 26 children and teachers in Newtown, CT, leaves her uniquely qualified to tell this story. In New York City, Ms. Marcius was the first reporter to interview Ramsey Orta, the man who filmed the death of Eric Garner. The video she helped to obtain went viral, leading to police training reforms within the NYPD. Ms. Marcius made several appearances on MSNBC and BBC Radio to discuss the case, and her reporting helped the paper win the Associated Press award for continuing coverage.

www.chelsiarosemarcius.com.

<https://www.insideedition.com/media/videos/prison-escapee-david-sweat-tells-author-he-doesnt-regret-infamous-jailbreak-44657>



MY STOLEN SON

The Nick Markowitz Story

By Susan Markowitz
Penguin Random House

* Starred Review from Publishers Weekly

This poignant memoir tells the painful story of a brutal slaying that captured national attention when it became the basis of the 2007 drama *Alpha Dog*. In the summer of 2000, Susan Markowitz's 15-year-old son, Nicholas, was kidnapped and murdered by a local drug dealer in revenge for his brother's debts. Nicholas's death, the ensuing trials of his killers, and the international manhunt for a fourth suspect nearly tore his family apart and sent his mother on a decade-long quest for justice and sanity. Markowitz writes with candor about her grief-induced alcoholism and suicide attempts as well as the troubles that shook her family's foundation long before Nicholas's death. Her unflinching honesty makes this a deeply powerful story that will move fans of the film and anyone grieving a loved one's death by homicide or suicide.

On the morning of August 6, 2000, fifteen-year-old Nicholas Markowitz - knowing he was in trouble with his parents - snuck out of the house. He never came home. One week later, authorities arrived on Susan's doorstep with devastating news: her son had been found dead. Days earlier, a 20-year-old drug dealer, Jesse James Hollywood, and 3 of his accomplices, had kidnapped the teenager in broad daylight as revenge for a drug-related debt owed by Nick's half-brother. They later murdered the innocent boy in cold blood and buried him in a shallow grave. Hollywood fled to Brazil as a fugitive and became the youngest man ever on the FBI's top ten "Most Wanted" list. It would be nearly a decade before he was brought to justice.

Initially, Susan had thought only about getting justice for her son. But along the way, she rediscovered her own will to live, and promised to honor her beloved son's memory by making sure something positive came from the pain he had to endure. *MY STOLEN SON* is the gripping account of one mother's relentless 9-year fight to bring her son's killer to justice, and to rebuild a family shattered by an unconscionable crime.



For more see: www.NicholasMarkowitz.com or www.MyStolenSon.com

SOLE SURVIVOR

By Holly K. Dunn and Heather Ebert
Diversion Books, November 2017



Just as she was starting her junior year of college, Holly Dunn and her boyfriend were attacked while walking along railroad tracks. After her boyfriend is murdered, Holly is stabbed, raped, and beaten nearly to death. Their assailant remained at large for two years before police realized he was a serial killer connected to many more murders in several states. In this memoir of survival and healing from a horrific true crime, Holly recounts how she survived the vicious assault, endured a long journey of healing, and ultimately found meaning and purpose through service to victims of sexual assault and other violent crimes.

On August 28, 1997, Holly Dunn and her boyfriend, Chris Maier, were strolling along a set of railroad tracks not far from the University of Kentucky in Lexington where both were students. As they were heading back to a nearby house party, a strange man emerged from the shadows brandishing a sharp, pointed weapon.

Holly and Chris offered him money, credit cards, even their car while begging the man not to hurt them. Disregarding their pleas, the stranger viciously attacked them both, tying their arms and feet and dragging them into a ditch on the side of the tracks. Holly watched helplessly as the assailant bludgeoned Chris to death with a 50-pound rock. The killer then turned to Holly, stabbing her in the neck, raping her, and beating her over the head and face with a board until she was unconscious. Leaving her for dead, the attacker fled the scene.

After a while, Holly regained consciousness and miraculously managed to walk barefoot and coated in blood to a nearby house for help. From there, Holly was rushed to the University of Kentucky Medical Center where she stayed for five days being treated for multiple cuts and gashes, a broken eye socket, and a fractured jaw. Much worse than the physical harm was the emotional and psychological devastation that Holly endured after the attack. Holly's memoir moves from a detailed account of the night she and Chris were attacked by the tracks, through her heartbreaking journey of grief and healing as she comes to terms with what happened.

For two years after the attack, Lexington police have no idea who or where Holly's attacker is. **At the story's midpoint, the assailant is revealed to be a serial killer who has murdered multiple people in several states.** Given that his victims are all discovered a short distance from train tracks, the media nicknames him the **Railroad Killer**.

His best-known alias at the time was Rafael Resendez-Ramirez, an illegal immigrant from Mexico with a mile-long rap sheet dating back to when he was 16 years old. At the height of a national manhunt, Resendez-Ramirez is added to the FBI's Ten Most Wanted list, right between Osama Bin Laden and followed shortly after by Whitey Bulger. After he is finally apprehended by a fiercely determined Texas Ranger, the killer's actual name turns out to be **Angel Maturing Resendiz**. Resendiz is brought to justice, and Holly bravely testifies against him during the punishment phase of his trial in Houston, Texas. The jury recommends the death penalty, and the notorious Railroad Killer is finally executed in 2006.

Holly's story doesn't end with Resendiz's death, however. Not long after her attacker's arrest, Holly begins speaking to various groups to tell her story, offer safety tips, train law enforcement, and much more. She also works with a local police detective for several years to establish **Holly's House** in her hometown, Evansville, Indiana. Holly's House offers a safe and nurturing space for forensic interviews, services and support for victims, and community outreach and education programs.

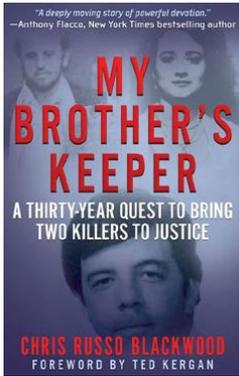
Her Christian faith brought her strength throughout the healing process, and she believes she was given a second chance at life for a reason. Since her ordeal, Holly has embraced every opportunity to serve others, especially those who have endured rape and other violent crimes. Holly's story is ultimately inspiring and redemptive as she demonstrates that even in the face of one's worst nightmare come true, life can still be good, meaningful, and joyous.

For more see: www.HollyKDunn.com

MY BROTHER'S KEEPER

By Chris Blackwood

Wild Blue Press



On the night of Gary Kergan's murder, he was a confidant, charismatic 40-year-old on the verge of a breakthrough business deal for himself and younger brother Ted. He had called Ted with the news that the funding they sought for their franchise partnership was granted; the brothers were soon going to own dozens of franchise locations. This was the level of success they had chased together for years. On the phone call, Gary told Ted he was on his way over, so the elated pair could celebrate this great news together. Ted settled on his sofa and waited for the sounds of his brother's steps on the front porch. For so many years, the brothers had functioned as a duo in business ventures, beginning with mutual paper routes as teenagers. Ted was four years younger and looked up to his brother, while Gary, a big man at six feet, five inches tall, had always been Ted's protector. Everyone who knew the Kergan brothers realized they had a special closeness, even if people were unaware it was built on escaping the poverty of their childhoods together. When they spoke on the phone, they used a special kind of coded language that often-made sense only to them. Ted fell asleep waiting. Gary never arrived.

It would later be learned the celebratory mood had caused Gary's good judgment to fail him. He drove to a North Baton Rouge strip bar to meet up with Leila Mulla, a young dancer there. They later left the bar together and were seen entering her apartment just blocks away.

But Leila already had a boyfriend. He was hiding inside the apartment with a heavy blunt instrument in his hand, waiting for her to bring home a victim with a fat wallet. And with that, Gary disappeared into the memories of those who loved him.

The following day, his late-model Eldorado turned up in suburban New Orleans, an hour's drive east of the dancer's apartment. When police popped open the trunk, they found it soaked with a large pool of blood, evidence of such great blood loss that the victim's survival was unlikely. As evidence in a murder case, that much blood legally served as a stand-in for the body itself as proof of death. The authorities called it a "body of blood."

Ted mobilized a search for his brother and quickly came across the name of Leila Mulla, a 19-year-old Kent, Ohio high school honor student and daughter of a prominent Syrian physician. Leila had run away from drug rehab and ended up homeless in New Orleans. There she had met Ronald Dunnagan, a magician and drifter in his thirties.

Police investigated her and her boyfriend, but no solid evidence was found. And yet Ted did not doubt their guilt. Leila chronicled her sex trade tricks and her earnings in several diaries, and one of them included this damning entry: "Hit Gary next time," and a reference to the fact that Gary owned a chain of South Louisiana Sonic restaurants. Ted didn't doubt their guilt. The question was one of proof.

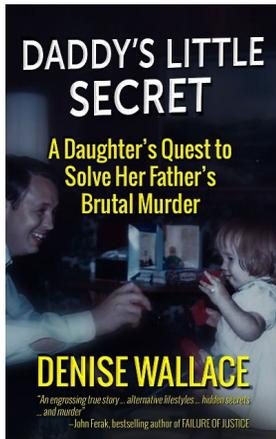
After being extradited to Baton Rouge, Leila and Ron spent several months in East Baton Rouge Parish Prison. When the investigation failed to turn up Gary's body, the grifter pair was released and went their separate ways.

But Ted Kergan remain convinced the couple was guilty and refused to hold a memorial service for his brother until he found the truth. This began his decades-long investigation and pursuit of his brother's killers. After years of private detective work, DNA science finally caught up with the paltry evidence in Gary's death. The Baton Rouge police department re-opened the case and established new DNA evidence which triggered Leila's and Ron's arrest in December of 2012. It was only brother Ted's persistence that brought about their conviction. The killers would have done the perfect murder, if not for the bond between the Kergan brothers. Ted Kergan was never going to walk away from this.

The twists and turns of Ted Kergan's investigation read like a crime novel but reflect one man's quiet determination to bring justice for a brother who had always been his protector in life. He repeatedly comes oh-so-close to bringing Leila and Ron to justice, only to see their experienced criminal attitudes allow them to bluff their way past the law. Sometimes it seems as if the stars are lined up to help them – and the years tick by. This real-life drama is a compelling tale driven by the victim's brother who obsessively seeks the truth, spending a fortune in the process. Even though Gary's body was never recovered, the body of blood in his car was enough for the conviction. Ted lived to see the killers face the consequences of their murderous acts, and to know they were both aware of his role in chasing them down after a manhunt spanning three decades. www.mybrotherskeeperbook.com

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Gp6dNpk_xjQ

<https://crimewatchdaily.com/2018/02/09/sonic-garys-brother-keeps-cold-case-alive-long-enough-to-help-solve-it-after-30-years/>



DADDY'S LITTLE SECRET

By Denise Wallace

WildBlue Press, June 2016

Denise Wallace had spent years hiding deadly secrets about her enigmatic father, Wesley Wallace. Wes was a trusted security guard of the Ritz Carlton Palm Beach, who was supposed to protect those who found themselves in his care. But a closer look into his brutal murder revealed a split personality -- one that his daughter may have seen.

The detectives persuaded Denise to assist them in the capture of her father's killer by taking them on a series of outings that would be far from away from the glitz of Palm Beach. The trail would lead them to the murky streets of Dixie Highway, where it was discovered that Wes spent much of his free time. It was there that Wes picked up Travis Jones, an eighteen-year-old homeless man who was possibly addicted to crack cocaine. Wes had lured Travis into his car that night with the promise of money in exchange for homosexual favors, but never planned to make good on the deal.

Instead, he had tried to force Travis to be a participant in a violent sex game where Daddy was going to get what he wanted -- even if it killed him. A terrorized Travis had then engaged in a frenzied attempt to cover up the crime. The detectives would find an overflowing bathtub filled with bleach-smelling water, bloody sheets, and a gold lamp base along with items missing from Wes' apartment.

But where was the killer? Travis had gotten on a bus and left town until the one friend he told about the murder decided to turn on him. The details of the crime would be recanted by Travis himself on the stand, which would cause Denise to remember something that had happened long ago. Her father had a history of collecting sex slaves. Would telling his secret to the prosecutor be enough to save Travis from the death penalty? Even from the grave Wes' ominous weight could still be felt by his daughter and the killer.

For more about Denise see www.DeniseWallaceAuthor.com

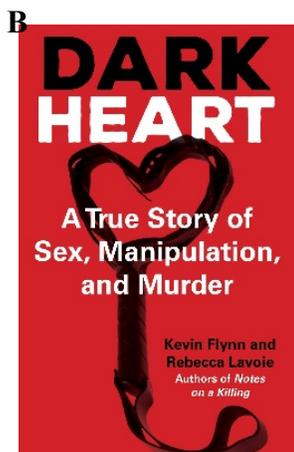
<http://truecrimepage.com/denise-wallace-confronts-her-slain-fathers-double-life-in-daddys-little-secret/>

DARK HEART

A True Story of Sex, Manipulation, and Murder

By Kevin Flynn & Rebecca Lavoie

Penguin Random House



In this tale of *The Loft* meets *Fifty Shades of Grey*, a beautiful co-ed goes missing after being lured to the apartment of a couple seeking a partner for a kinky threesome. Was it a sex act gone wrong or something more sinister?

Though 19-year-old **Lizzi Marriott** said she'd be home before midnight, the marine biology student never arrived. She'd said she was on her way to visit her new friends, Kat and Seth. What she didn't know was the real reason the couple invited her over.

To the outside world, 18-year-old **Kat McDonough** and 30-year-old **Seth Mazzaglia** were a normal couple who enjoyed acting, video games, and Dungeons and Dragons. Seth convinced the impressionable Kat their

role-playing alter egos were real, spirits from their "past lives" who could control their present. Seth cautioned that he was pursued by an otherworldly "Darkness," a power that would overtake him unless Kat did what he said. From there, Seth led the much-younger woman into the world of extreme bondage, knife play, masochism, threesomes, and erotic asphyxiation.



Seth turned Kat literally into his sexual slave, demanding all her master's needs be unquestionably met. When Kat left for two weeks to work as a summer camp counselor, he demanded she find him a "replacement" to satisfy his pleasures. When she failed, the master inflicted punishment on his slave: days of bondage and rough sex. He said the punishment would continue until she found him a friend who would "die by orgasm" in front of her.

When Lizzi Marriott vanished, police traced her last known location to Seth and Kat's apartment. After hours of interrogation, Seth confessed Lizzi died during a BDSM session in which he accidentally choked her with a rope. He disposed of her naked body in a swift river which dumped into the Atlantic Ocean. Later, in an effort to free her arrested boyfriend, Kat told defense lawyers the girl accidentally died of smothering when she sat on Lizzi's face.

Authorities were never able to recover Lizzi's body, losing the most important piece of evidence in the case. Prosecutors desperately needed Kat's eyewitness account to convict Seth. After Kat was arrested on witness tampering charges, they cut a deal for her testimony.

In court, Kat told what really happened that night. After playing a flirty game of strip poker, Lizzi rebuffed Seth's advances and an invitation to join the couple in bed. The master, unaccustomed to hearing "no" in his own bedroom, strangled Lizzi from behind with a rope used for bondage. Under cover of darkness, both Seth and Kat dumped Lizzi's body into the river and abandoned her car. Kat, however, was a troublesome witness. She had lied many times to protect Seth – lies the defense used against her. At trial, they confronted her with her beliefs in spirits and dragons and her own kinky predilections. Defense attorneys accused Kat of killing Lizzi and setting Seth up to take the fall. It would be up to a jury to decide whom they believed most.

See: www.AuthorKevinFlynn.com

THE STRANGER SHE LOVED

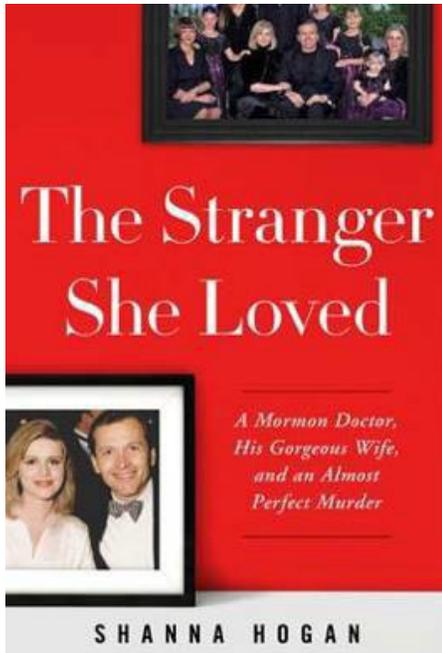
By Shanna Hogan

St. Martin's Press

Optioned to Sony Television

Michele MacNeill lay slumped, limp and lifeless folded inside the drained bathtub. Her husband Martin—clad in a white lab coat—hovered above the tub, wailing for help.

It was late on the morning of April 11, 2007, and Michelle, a 50-year-old former beauty queen and mother of eight, was dead inside the master bathroom of her Pleasant Grove, Utah home. She had just undergone a full-face lift eight days prior. At the hospital as his wife of 30-years was pronounced dead, Dr. Martin MacNeill—a practicing physician, lawyer, and Mormon bishop—wept dramatically. Michele's death was quickly ruled natural by the medical examiner due to an unknown heart arrhythmia. Dr. MacNeill appeared every bit the grieving widower.



But as investigators would discover, nothing about Dr. MacNeill was as it seemed. It would take six long years and the unrelenting dedication of Michele's children to solve the mystery of her death, exposing a complex web of lies, betrayal and murder. Beneath the carefully concocted façade of a family man, Dr. MacNeill was a cunning manipulator with a disturbing double identity. He used his position as a doctor to gain access to other women and used his title as attorney to get around the law.

The unraveling of Dr. MacNeill's lies began soon after Michele's surgery, which he had persuaded his wife to undergo. As she recovered, a disturbingly groggy Michele turned to her older daughter Alexis and said, "In case anything happens to me, make sure it was not your dad. Michele had suspected her husband of an affair and believed he intended to kill her.



Days after his wife's funeral, Dr. MacNeill hired his mistress, Gypsy Willis, to be the live-in nanny—much to the chagrin of his children. Both Dr. MacNeill and Gypsy neglected the MacNeill children and eventually lost custody. In the summer of 2007, they abandoned his teenage adopted daughter in her homeland of the Ukraine. He then used the girl's Social Security number to give his mistress a new identity and conceal his own massive debts.

As Dr. MacNeill's children began to suspect their father of murder, they conducted their own investigations, revealing his multiple affairs, a criminal record for forgery and falsified transcripts proving he was never qualified as a doctor.



Toxicology tests later proved Michele was dosed with a combination of drugs that would have left her helpless to defend for her herself. In 2013, Dr. Martin MacNeill was convicted murdering his wife by pressing her to get plastic surgery, drugging her and drowning her in the bathtub. As the prosecutor would say in court, "it was an almost perfect murder." He later committed suicide in prison.

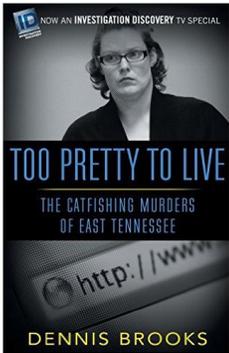
See: www.ShannaHogan.com

TOO PRETTY

The True, Strange Story of the Catfishing Murders of East Tennessee

By Dennis Brooks

Diversion Books, 2015



One morning in Mountain City, Tennessee, a young couple were found dead in their home. Shot through their heads. The woman died holding in her arms her baby son, who was still alive. The mother was wearing pajamas. The bullet that killed her lay in the baby's bouncy seat.

The motivation behind these killings is a shocking story. A collection of four persons contributed to the crime. A father who fancied himself a pseudo CIA agent and acted under the belief he was protecting his family. A boyfriend in his late 30s, gullible to the commands of the first female to ever give him attention, entering the victims' home to aid the father. A mother, chronically overprotective and delusional, who domineered and controlled the men. And at the center of it all, a young woman able to manipulate them all despite her intellectual limitations.

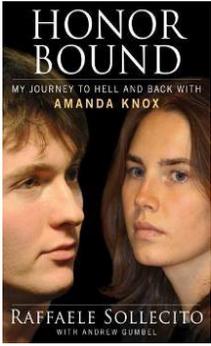
Jenelle Potter, 30 at the time of the deaths of Bill Payne and Billie Jean Hayworth, had lived her entire life in her parents' home under their watchful eyes. She grew up a special education student. As an adult, she never held a job and drew disability. Socially awkward, she was drawn to the internet for the opportunity to communicate with the world. Through the type-written word, she was able to be anyone she wanted to be.

After Bill and Billie Jean began their relationship and started a family, Jenelle began assuming fictitious online identities to influence others to align against the couple and their friends. Presumably, Jenelle had been attracted to Bill. His new love of Billie Jean sent Jenelle into a jealous rage and pattern of harassment against Billie Jean and her friends. Jenelle's main pseudonym was Chris, a purported CIA agent who had gone to school with Jenelle. As Chris, Jenelle wrote often to her mother, Barbara Potter, who soon began to think of Chris as being like a son. Yet Barbara never met Chris, in spite of her yearning to do so. She was "catfished." Chris wrote to Barbara about the surveillance he had conducted on the victims and how the victims were conspiring to harm Jenelle.

Through this correspondence, Jenelle was able to convince her mother that she was in danger and that the danger would only end with the victims' deaths. Barbara thus began encouraging her husband, Buddy Potter, to act. Chris promised CIA backing for the sordid deed.

Jenelle also assumed the Chris identity in writing to her secret boyfriend, Jamie Curd, who was also "catfished." Even though Barbara did not approve of Jamie dating Jenelle, the awkward couple discretely communicated to each other by texting and phone calls away from the dominating eyes of Jenelle's parents. As Chris, Jenelle was able to pit Jamie against his cousin, Bill, and manipulate him into assisting Buddy.

Too Pretty tells the story of this crime and its ensuing prosecution from the perspective of the lead prosecutor of the case. Dennis Brooks was a 17-year veteran Assistant District Attorney when the matter came to him with only the men being charged. Through a creative use of forensic linguistics and utilizing the theory of criminal responsibility, Brooks was able to weave together a case that ultimately convicted each of the Potters of two counts of first-degree murder. Brooks details his prosecution while never neglecting to analyze the countless oddities of the Potter family. Their story will shock and amaze you.



HONOR BOUND:

My Journey to Hell and Back with Amanda Knox

By Raffaele Sollecito with Andrew Gumbel

Gallery Books/Simon and Schuster

Available treatment for six-part limited series

The story of Raffaele Sollecito is a natural for the movies. It is both a thriller and a love story. Its protagonists are young, attractive and innocent. Its antagonists are compelling, Machiavellian, and marvelously complex. It has a natural three-act structure: Raffaele and Amanda Knox meeting and falling in love; their arrest and incarceration; and their struggle— seemingly impossible at first, but ultimately successful— for vindication and freedom.

As in the best love stories, there is nothing static or simple about the relationship between the lovers. Raffaele would most likely have been dumped and left heartbroken if the murder of Meredith Kercher had not intervened. He and Amanda then formed an extraordinary bond, even though they had no physical contact during the four years of their incarceration. Over and over, Raffaele came under pressure from the prosecution, from his own lawyers and from his family to change his testimony and get himself off the hook. All he needed to say was that he didn't know whether Amanda left his house on the night of the murder. But he refused to say it, because that would have meant betraying Amanda and leaving her to swing in the wind. He knew she had not left his house, because she did not have his key and would have needed to be buzzed back in. He never wavered on this point. He had a keen sense of justice, but also a heart carried away by his infatuation with the carefree young American.

Beyond Raffaele's prison cell was a scheming and conniving public prosecutor determined to prove that the sexually uninhibited Amanda was some sort of witch or devil; a complex game of legal brinkmanship in which the prosecution and defense were both jockeying for maximum advantage; Raffaele's own family, who worked tirelessly to demolish the evidence against him but also fought bitterly with him because they felt he was gratuitously throwing his life away for an American exchange student who didn't care that much about him; and a ruthless media machine which feasted on every scandalous tidbit thrown out by the police and prosecution and sustained an unsustainable murder case for far too long.

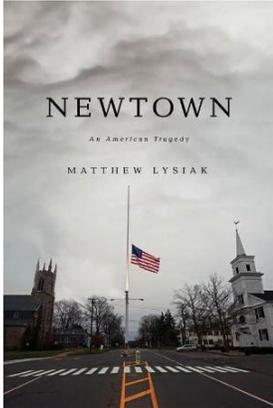
A movie adaptation of this story would be fast-paced, full of surprises even for viewers who followed the case on television or in the newspapers, visually compelling (the beauties of Umbria and the Apulia coast contrasting with the cold gray of Raffaele's prison cell) and crammed with great characters:

- Raffaele's passionate but overbearing father;
- his sweet-natured sister punished at every turn for the charges leveled at her brother;
- the public prosecutor, Giacomo Mignini, who has all the makings of a memorable screen villain, plus:
- the craven, weak lower court judge who convicted Raffaele and Amanda;
- Raffaele's talented but realistic legal team, who tried to short-circuit the system but ended up working painstakingly to dismantle the case against him piece by piece;
- a clutch of improbable and wildly unreliable eyewitnesses and expert consultants, each of whom could be a terrific cameo; and, of course,
- Amanda and Raffaele themselves— appealing, mismatched, desperately unlucky and ultimately, if improbably, heroic.

NEWTOWN

An American Tragedy

By Matthew Lysiak
Gallery Books/Simon & Schuster



Scripted Treatment available

The arc of this movie follows the dysfunctional relationship between Adam Lanza (age 18 to 20) and his divorced mother, Nancy Lanza (age 50-52), beginning in 2010 when Adam's already shaky and dysfunctional state of mind begins a sudden drop away from rational behavior and turns into obsessive- compulsive, irrational behaviors. As his mindset deteriorates, Nancy Lanza's enabling escalates. It proceeds to the moment two years later December 14, 2012, when he shoots his mother to death in her bed and sets out on his twisted mission, soon to kill 20 children and six adults at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Connecticut. **The murders are not portrayed.**

In the vein of Dave Cullen's *Columbine*, the first comprehensive account of the Sandy Hook tragedy—with exclusive new information that chronicles the horrific events of December 14, 2012, including new insight into the dark mind of gunman Adam Lanza.

26 people dead; 20 of them schoolchildren between the ages of six and seven. The world mourned the devastating shooting at Sandy Hook elementary school in Newtown, Connecticut in December 2012. Now, here is the startling, comprehensive look at this tragedy, and into the mind of the unstable killer, Adam Lanza. Drawing on hundreds of interviews and a decade's worth of emails from Lanza's mother to close friends that chronicled his slow slide into mental illness, *Newtown* pieces together the perfect storm that led to this unspeakable act of violence that shattered so many lives.

Newtown explores the two central theories that have permeated the media since the attack: some claim Lanza suffered from severe mental illness, while others insist that, far from being a random act of insanity, this was a meticulously thought out, premeditated attack at least two years in the making by a violent video-gamer so obsessed with "glory kills" that he was willing to go to any length to attain the top score. Lanza's dark descent from a young boy with adjustment disorders to a calculating killer is interwoven with the Newtown tragedy as it unfolded at the time, told from the points of view of eyewitnesses, survivors, parents of victims, first responders, and Adam's relatives. A definitive account of a tragedy that shook a nation, *Newtown* features exclusive material including initial misinformation reported by the media and commentary on how this American tragedy became a lightning rod for political agendas, much like *Columbine* did more than a decade ago.



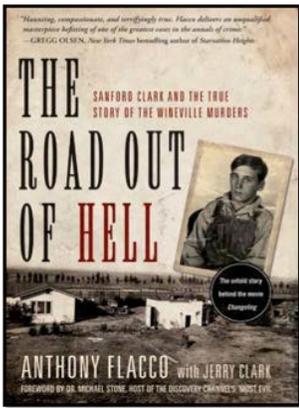
Matthew Lysiak was a staff writer for *The Daily News* (New York) who has received national recognition for his exclusive reporting on the shootings at Sandy Hook Elementary and the Newtown killer Adam Lanza, the Aurora gunman James Holmes, the Tucson shooter Jared Loughner, the Fort Hood army psychiatrist Nidal Malik Hasan, and more. Lysiak currently lives in Arizona with his wife and four daughters. For more about Matthew, see www.MatthewLysiak.com

THE ROAD OUT OF HELL

Sanford Clark and the True Story of the Wineville Murders

By Anthony Flacco with Jerry Clark

Sterling Publishing



From 1926 to 1928, Gordon Stewart Northcott committed at least 20 murders on a chicken ranch outside of Los Angeles. His nephew, Sanford Clark, was held captive there from the age of 13 to 15 and was the sole surviving victim of the killing spree. Here, acclaimed crime writer Anthony Flacco — using never-before-heard information from Sanford's son Jerry Clark— tells the real story behind the case that riveted the nation.

Forced by Northcott to take part in the murders, Sanford carried tremendous guilt all his life. Yet, despite his youth and the trauma, he helped gain some justice for the dead and their families by testifying at Northcott's trial—which led to his conviction and sentence of death by hanging.

It was a shocking story, but perhaps the most shocking part of all is the extraordinarily ordinary life Clark went on to live as a decorated WWII vet, a devoted husband of 55 years, a loving father, and a productive citizen.

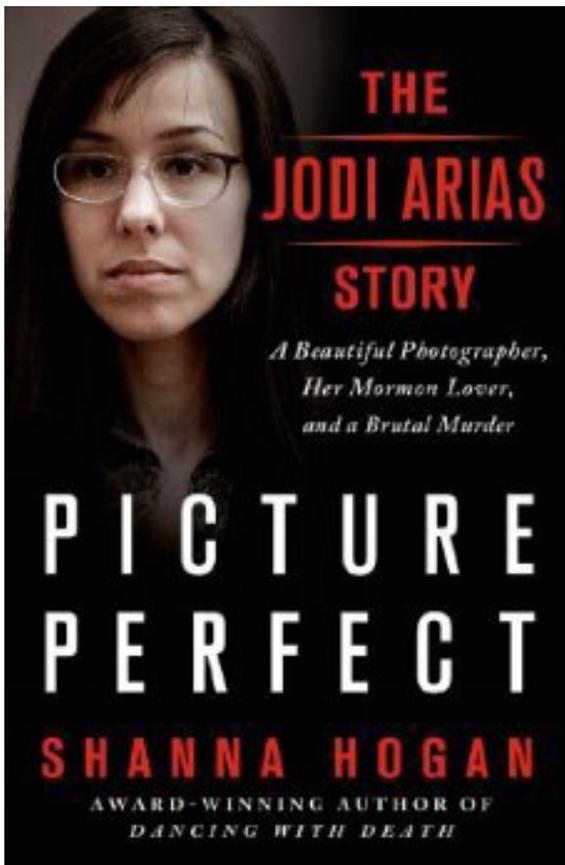
In dramatizing one of the darkest cases in American crime, Flacco constructs a riveting psychological drama about how Sanford was able to detoxify himself from the evil he'd encountered, offering a story which is ultimately redemptive, a tale of one man's remarkable ability to survive a nightmare and emerge intact.

For more about Anthony, see www.AnthonyFlacco.com



To See Book Trailer:

<http://www.anthonyflacco.com/booktrailer.htm>



PICTURE PERFECT

A Beautiful Photographer, Her Mormon Lover, And a Brutal Murder

By Shanna Hogan
St. Martin's Press

The New York Times
Best Seller 

Picture Perfect is the shocking true story of the death of Travis Alexander, a successful 30-year-old businessman, motivational speaker and devout Mormon, who was brutally murdered in his Mesa, Arizona, home in the summer of 2008. Travis' severely decomposed body was discovered days later inside his master bathroom shower. He had been shot in the face, stabbed 13 times and his throat had been slit from ear to ear.

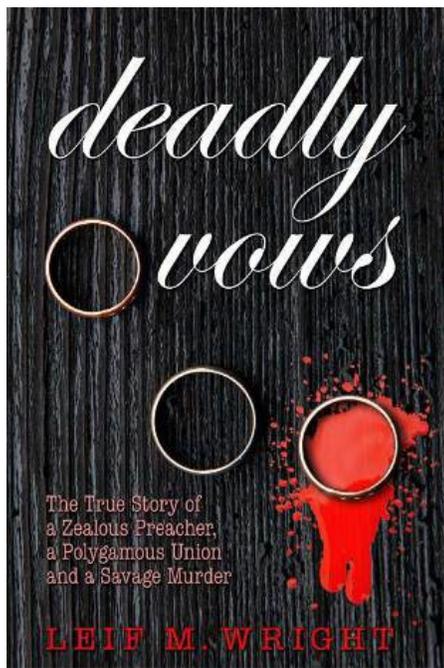
Soon police had a suspect—, a beautiful 29-year-old aspiring photographer. One-year prior Travis and Jodi had dated and secretly engaged in a sordid sexual relationship. But their romance meant much more to Jodi than to Travis. Her jealousy ultimately drove the couple apart and Travis ended their affair.

That's when Jodi's infatuation turned into an obsession. After their break-up, she moved just a few miles from Travis' house and began to stalk him. She slashed his tires, broke into his home, stole his journals and sent harassing e-mails to girls he was dating. Much of this drama played out on the social networking websites Myspace and Facebook, where Jodi often hacked into his account and posted vicious messages.

When questioned by detectives, Jodi claimed she was away in Utah at the time of the murder, but the evidence proved otherwise. Jodi's DNA, blood, hair and fingerprints were found throughout the crime scene. Inside the washing machine police also made an unusual discovery—a new digital camera. Even though the camera had been run through the wash and the memory card had been wiped clean, detectives were able to recover sexually provocative photos of Travis and Jodi taken on the last day he was seen alive. Most disturbingly, the last three photos depicted Travis in the shower as he was dying.

That evidence, and Jodi's changing story, was enough for her arrest. **Picture Perfect** is the suspenseful true crime account of the tumultuous relationship between Travis and Jodi, his gruesome murder and her trial. **Picture Perfect** is a story riddled with sex, lust, deceit and deadly obsession—a true crime best seller.

For more about Shanna, see www.ShannaHogan.com



DEADLY VOWS: The True Story of a Zealous Preacher, a Polygamous Union and a Savage Murder

**By Leif M. Wright
New Horizon Press**

A lone Palo Verde tree stands out defiantly against the Arizona desert, miles from anything else. Well, except for the strange pile of volcanic stones under it. What a jogger discovers underneath those stones—the violently desecrated corpse of a woman who had been brutally stabbed, then dismembered and disfigured—leads to one of the strangest cases detectives and medical examiners have ever seen.

In beautiful San Diego, handsome, engaging and popular preacher Sean Goff is telling everyone who will listen that his second wife, Joy—the one who had been living with him, his first wife and the trio’s three kids—simply tired of domestic life and pulled up roots to wander around Europe with an old flame, leaving her children and everything else behind.

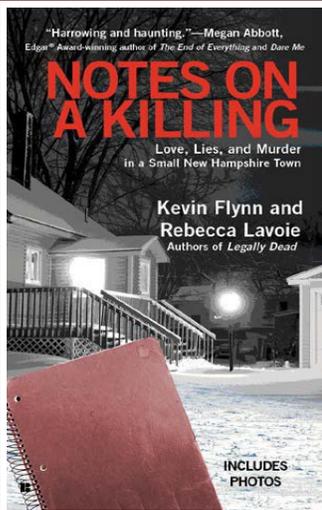
Joy’s friends keep pushing Sean for answers, until they start receiving emails from Joy telling them to chill out and leave her alone. Except the emails don’t really sound like the Joy they knew. And leaving her kids behind definitely doesn’t sound like her. So, they call police, who send a missing persons detective to talk to Sean.

Back in Arizona, medical examiners unravel the horrific crime that had been perpetrated on the woman found underneath the tree: she had been stabbed at least a dozen times in the chest—at some point so violently that her bones reveal injuries they’ve never seen before. Her fingertips have been sawed off and disposed of somewhere else. Her teeth have been sawed completely from her head. Her face has been bashed in. Some killer knew exactly what police would be looking for and had gone out of his way to make sure they wouldn’t find it.

Deadly Vows follows Sean Goff’s transformation from wunderkind preacher to cold-blooded manipulator and killer from the perspective of the man who saw it all, his best friend.

Deadly Vows is visceral, visually oriented and captivating for both readers and would be for viewers on film — from the cinematic opening page to the gripping courtroom drama that closes it. Its themes of fringe religion, polygamy and the transformation of a man and his wives demand to be displayed on-screen as both a spectacle and a cautionary tale.

For more about Leif, see www.leifwright.com



NOTES ON A KILLING

By Kevin Flynn & Rebecca Lavoie

Penguin Random House

Sandra Merritt was surprised to get a phone call at work from Edith “Pen” Meyer, her AA confidant. Pen urged Sandy to resume her affair with a married man, reversing the advice she’d given for months. After the call, Pen vanished. Investigators found Pen’s lakefront home empty except for her beloved dog, Fluff.

Sandy and Pen’s boyfriend suspected Ken Carpenter in the disappearance. When Sandy had called off the yearlong affair with the married man - filing a restraining order against him - Carpenter openly blamed her supportive friend Pen for coming between them. During the search, an anonymous caller told police Pen had flown to the islands with a secret lover. Investigators recognized the voice on the phone as Carpenter’s. The caller also suggested detectives check out the pay phone at the local country store. There, investigators discovered a key to Pen’s safe deposit box fastened to the phone with a piece of range duct tape.

Already suspicious of Carpenter, police asked Sandy to record phone calls with her ex-lover. On the tape, Carpenter told Sandy he had “spoken to God” and what happened to Pen would be revealed in a few days.

When police searched Carpenter’s home they came across a fire pit smoldering in the backyard. Inside the ashes was a pair of eyeglasses missing from Pen’s home, keys to her house and PO Box, and more than a dozen human bone fragments. They also found a roll of orange duct tape, a garrote, and a .22 rifle wrapped in a raincoat. Under a chair, police discovered a notebook with plans for a murder and scripts for Pen to read over the phone to Sandy. After his arrest, Sandy received a contract in the mail turning over all of Pen’s property to her. Pen’s signature had been forged on the paper.

Pen Meyer’s murder was hardly an open-and-shut case for prosecutor Kirsten Wilson. With no usable DNA and a handful of bone fragments, they couldn’t even get a death certificate, let alone a forensic cause of death. Investigators monitored Carpenter’s jailhouse calls with his wife, Cynthia “Harv” Harvey, for clues.

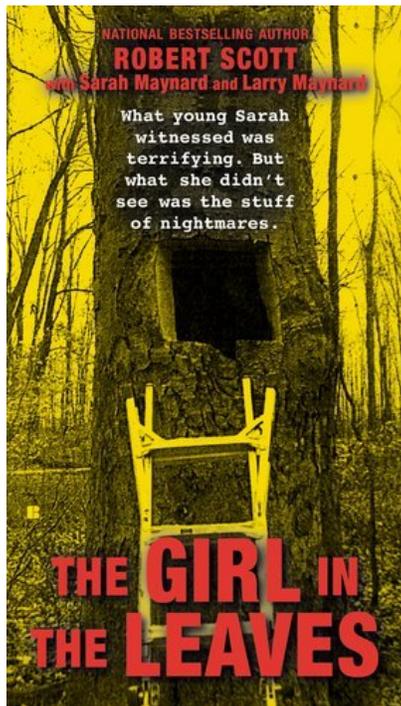
Carpenter consistently maintained his innocence. A nurse herself, Harv grilled him on why so few bones were in the fire pit. Carpenter eventually drew a map to a hollowed stump in their yard. There, Harv found burnt pieces of skull and Pen’s distinctive jewelry. Loyalties torn, Harv called the police. Carpenter doubled down. He claimed a stranger named “Phil Waters” had approached him after the restraining order and said he could take care of his “problem.” Carpenter said he left Pen alone with Phil at his house, and when he returned, the woman was gone and the fire was burning in his backyard. To prove his claim, he led Harv to more hidden evidence: a letter in Pen’s handwriting talking about the wonderful day they’d spent together – the day Pen disappeared. Police believed Carpenter forced Pen to write it at gunpoint.

State police forensics teams made the most of what evidence they had. They matched the orange duct tape on the pay phone to the tape recovered in Carpenter’s truck. Gloves that matched imprints in the tape were taken from his home. They found the typewriter ribbon that created the forged property agreement in Carpenter’s word processor. Meanwhile, a yearlong effort to reconstruct the skeleton from the various pieces was underway in a forensic pathologist’s lab in neighboring Maine.

When Carpenter’s public defender withdrew because of a conflict, famed defense attorney Mark Sisti took the case. Sisti, whose reputation had stemmed from his defense of Pamela Smart, excelled at raising doubt about how and where the killing could have happened, or whether the charred remains were even Pen Meyer’s. In the courtroom climax, the forensic anthropologist testified she had discovered a bullet hole in the reconstructed skull, answering once and for all how Pen was murdered. After a rousing closing argument re-written from scratch on the penultimate night of the trial, the jury convicted Ken Carpenter in just two hours. For more see: www.AuthorKevinFlynn.com

THE GIRL IN THE LEAVES

By Robert Scott with the cooperation of Sarah & Larry Maynard
Penguin Random House



Sarah and Kody Maynard were just typical kids growing up in idyllic Apple Valley, Ohio. Kody, at the age of 11, was already a superb baseball pitcher, and Sarah was a pretty, happy-go-lucky cheerleader at the age of 13. On November 10, 2010, however, their whole world was overturned in an instant.

As soon as Sarah and Kody walked home from school and entered the front door of their home, they noticed blood on the living room carpet. Suddenly a man came running down the hallway to grab them. Sarah managed to slip by him and dashed to her bedroom, while Kody turned to run out the front door. Before Sarah could call the police, the knife-wielding man grabbed her and tied her up.

Taken to the man's residence, Sarah was forced into his basement and tied up on a bed of leaves in a dark corner. In fact, her assailant was absolutely fixated with trees and leaves. Every room in his house was stuffed with dry leaves. And in his bathroom, he'd drawn strange creatures and insane-looking people on his wall. Knowing that she was being held captive by a mad man, 13-year-old Sarah also knew she would have to stay alive by using her wits.

Meanwhile, Sarah's father, Larry Maynard, was beside himself with worry, not knowing what had happened to his daughter, son Kody or ex-wife Tina. Many law enforcement agencies became involved, including the FBI, but more than any other, Sarah's fate now depended upon Knox County Sheriff David Barber.

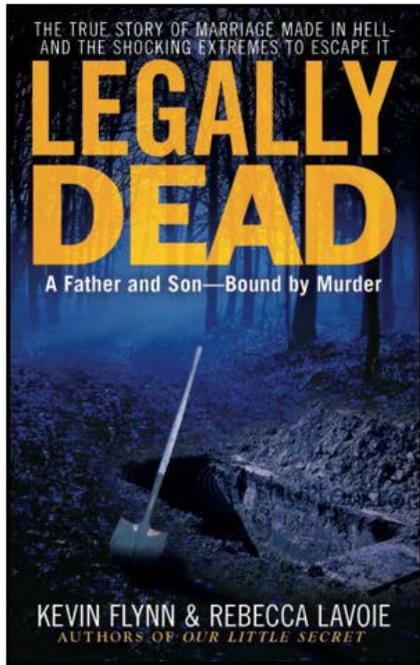
In a race against time, Knox County Sheriff's Office detectives uncovered one vital clue after another about the crime and who might have kidnapped Sarah. And all the while, shackled to a bed of leaves, Sarah survived on one bowl of cold cereal, playing a cat and mouse game of wills with her captor. By now she was certain that her assailant had killed Kody and her mother, and she also believed that she would be next once he tired of her.

Suddenly on November 14, 2010, a SWAT team burst into the man's house and arrested him. Then to their astonishment, they found Sarah alive in a dark corner of the basement, tied to a bed of leaves.

Unfortunately for Tina, Kody and Tina's friend, Stephanie Sprang, Sarah was right about their demise. The perpetrator, 30-year-old Matthew Hoffman of Mount Vernon, Ohio, had killed them and stuffed their bodies into the trunk of a hollow tree. But for the courage and coolness under extreme pressure on Sarah's part and the excellent police work by the Knox County Sheriff's Office, she may well have ended up in the tree as well.

On the one-year anniversary memorial service for Kody, Tina and Stephanie, Sarah spotted Sheriff Barber in the crowd. She well knew who had saved her, and in an exuberance of gratitude, Sarah ran up and gave him a huge hug. This a story of Sarah's courage, Larry Maynard's anguish and the tireless work by the detectives of Knox County in saving Sarah. Both Sarah and Larry Maynard have been on the TODAY show.

For more about the story, see www.tinakodyandsarah.org



LEGALLY DEAD

A Father and Son Bound by Murder

By Kevin Flynn & Rebecca Lavoie
Penguin Random House

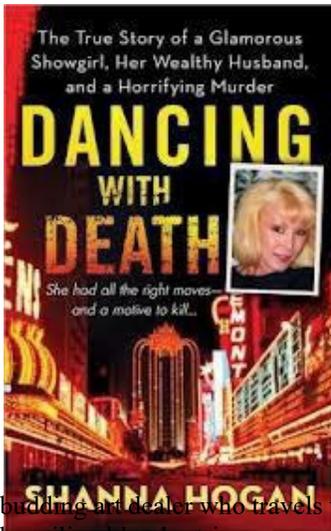
On March 11, 1996, Vicki Bader found an unpleasant delivery in her mailbox - a pipe bomb. It was the latest in a series of threats against the New Hampshire woman and mother of three. Vicki's tires had been slashed, she'd received harassing phone calls, and someone had killed her pet birds by roasting them alive in her oven. Police focused on Vicki's relationship with her ex-husband, a narcissistic attorney named Seth Bader. As the custody battle over their three sons dragged on, Bader enjoyed putting the screws to Vicki. His intimidation was so overwhelming, a psychologically weakened Vicki repeatedly attempted suicide.

Each time she recovered, Bader would push her harder, unmercifully, driving her to the brink. Bader was living in a mansion, using all his legal tricks to keep the children away from their mother. Their oldest boy, 13-year-old Joey, lived like a virtual slave in his house—cooking, cleaning, and caring for his brothers while Bader romanced his sexy new girlfriend, Mary Jean Martin. He lavished Mary Jean with expensive gifts, but it was never enough to secure her love. The money owed to his ex-wife became a wedge in their tumultuous relationship.

In August 1996, Vicki Bader vanished. Seth Bader said their last meeting was an uneventful drop off of their three-year-old son at his house. No one knew where she went afterward. Nearly a year later, police would be led to a body in the deep woods of Maine. Investigators would discover Vicki was murdered by a motley group of thugs organized by Seth Bader. The conspiracy included a pool shark, a wannabe gangster, a gold-digging siren, and—most disturbing of all—the Bader's own son.

Did Seth Bader try to drive Vicki to suicide, then scheme to kill her himself? Or was the lawyer a patsy for a hungry group of con-artists who smelled a big payday? The answers are revealed in *Legally Dead*, the latest compelling true crime story from authors Kevin Flynn and Rebecca Lavoie. This tale of depravity and selfish scheming is one that you will not soon forget.

For more see: www.AuthorKevinFlynn.com



DANCING WITH DEATH

The True Story of a Glamorous Showgirl, Her Wealthy Husband, and a Horrifying Murder

By Shanna Hogan
St. Martin's Press

October 23, 2004. The crime scene is gruesome. On the outskirts of the Phoenix desert detectives discover a headless, limbless torso entombed inside a large plastic box, stewing in blood and grim. Matching a set of car keys found with the victim, detectives quickly identify the torso in the box as Jay Michael Orbin.

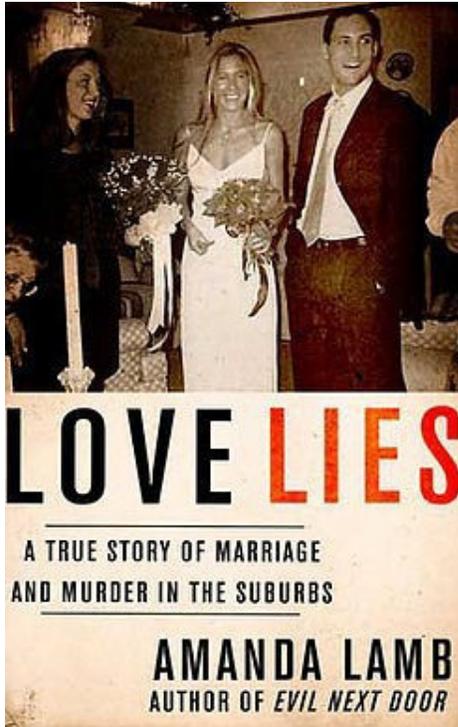
Flash back to 20 years prior where a young Jay Orbin is sipping a beer at a strip club. Jay is a budding art dealer who travels two weeks a month on business trips. He is also a playboy with an affinity for strippers. When a beguiling blonde stripper named Marjorie Marqui sensually cavorts on stage, Jay falls head over heels. After weeks of seducing her with money and gifts they begin dating and Marjorie even moves to his house. After one embarrassing sexual encounter, Marjorie leaves Jay and returns to her home state of Florida.

Eight years later, Jay has not forgotten about Marjorie and still refers to her as the “love of his life.” Then, in 1995, on a business trip to Las Vegas, Jay sees Marjorie’s face on a billboard advertising a topless dance show. Jay is in awe. He had been searching for her for years. He finds her number in the phone book and calls her. They meet for drinks where Marjorie tells Jay about her life over the past 10 years. After leaving Phoenix, Marjorie returned to her home state of Florida and hooked up with a multi-millionaire playboy named Michael J. Peter, who is known throughout Florida as the “strip club king.” While with Michael, Marjorie starred in his burlesque-style dance troupe called the “Platinum Dolls.” Michael and Marjorie had a romantic relationship and she was involved in many of his endeavors, starring in his movies and music videos including a cameo in the Motley Crue video “Girls, Girls, Girls.” Marjorie was even featured with Michael in an episode of *Lifestyles of the Rich and Famous*, about his life of opulence. When speaking with Jay, Marjorie does leave out many mysterious details about her past, which would be revealed later in the story.

Jay and Marjorie rekindle their relationship and he quickly proposes marriage. Marjorie, however, turns him down. But when Marjorie tells him of her one regret—that she is infertile and can never be a mom—they make a deal. If Marjorie marries him, Jay promised to pay for fertility treatments. The couple agrees to an arrangement where if Marjorie is not pregnant in two years she will leave. They elope in Vegas and Marjorie moves with him to Phoenix, soon giving birth to a son named Noah. While Jay’s family and friends have mixed opinions about Marjorie, their relationship seems to work and over the next eight years they live together as a seemingly happy family. Then, on September 8, 2004, Jay’s 45th birthday, he fails to return home from a business trip. Over the next few weeks the family becomes increasingly concerned. Jay’s older brother Jake comes down from San Diego to search for his brother. The family, in particular Jake, will be instrumental in uncovering Marjorie’s mysterious past. While Marjorie tells the family that Jay is expected any day, Jake convinces Marjorie to report him missing. With missing persons detectives Marjorie seems unconcerned and evasive. It’s clear to them that she’s hiding something.

During one phone call with Detective Jan Butcher, Marjorie refuses to take a lie detector test. In the background a male voice pipes up in the background telling Marjorie not to cooperate. Suspicious, Detective Butcher orders a search warrant on the house and discovers that Marjorie has been having an affair with a 60-year-old body builder named Larry Weisberg, who attacks SWAT officers and is Tasered inside Marjorie’s house. That night Jay’s brother Jake goes to the house to check on Noah and hears as Marjorie tells detectives a shocking secret—she and Jay are not actually married. They had divorced eight years prior because Marjorie had a tax lien in her name. No one, not even Jay’s parents, knew of the divorce. Because Marjorie was not Jay’s wife, she would not be entitled to his assets in a divorce. She is however, the main beneficiary on his millionaire dollar life insurance payouts.

Over the next month, Jake hires a private detective to learn more about Marjorie. He soon discovers that Marjorie is not who she has claimed to be. Marjorie had been married and divorced seven times and has a petty criminal record and links to mob ties through her ex Michael J. Peter. The family later learns that Marjorie had been suspected of egregious acts at her son’s karate studio, including harassing other parents. She had even been dying her eight-year-old son’s hair blonde to match hers since he was just a few months old. Then, on October 23, 2004, more than a month after he went missing, a dismembered chunk of Jay’s torso is discovered in the Phoenix desert. Homicide detectives quickly put together a case against Marjorie and her boyfriend Larry Weisberg. After discovering video of Marjorie buying the Rubbermaid tub is torso was discovered in, an arrest is made. No evidence is ever found on Larry Weisberg and he is later offered immunity. On September 21, 2009, Marjorie is convicted on first degree murder and sentenced in life without the possibility of parole. For more about Shanna, see www.ShannaHogan.com



LOVE LIES

By Amanda Lamb

Penguin Random House

Love Lies would translate perfectly from the page to the screen. It has all the elements of a real-life thriller. Nancy and Brad Cooper were Canadians who had discovered the American dream in North Carolina. It was a place where they would raise their two daughters, make new friends and spend their time jogging on picturesque trails. That is *until Nancy disappeared*.

Hundreds searched for her. Finally, a man walking his dog found Nancy facedown, partially clothed in an undeveloped subdivision three miles from her home. Her handsome husband, Brad, said she went jogging and never returned. But in the days and weeks following the discovery of Nancy's body came startling discoveries about the couple's crumbling marriage.

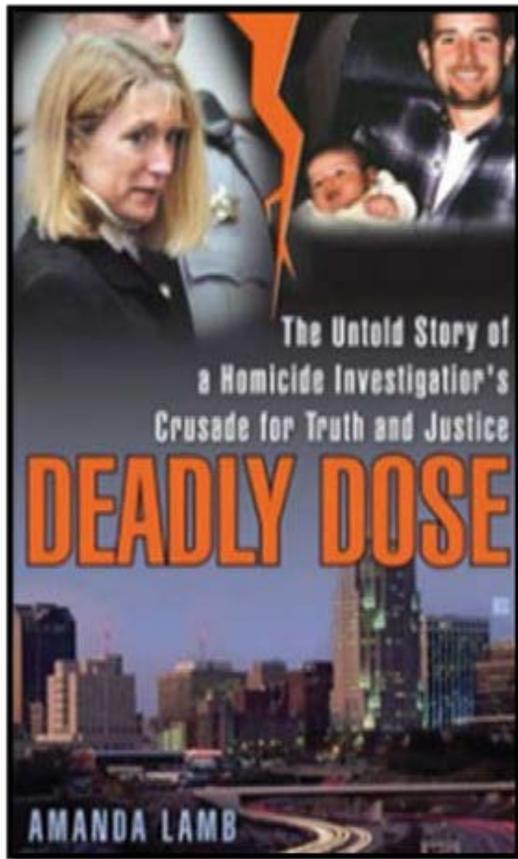
Despite Nancy's reputation as a saucy, strong-willed, gutsy woman, friends and family said Brad had been controlling Nancy's life—cutting her off from money, friends and relatives. It was obvious they were headed for divorce, but the couple had many dark secrets, as did their friends, that were yet to be uncovered—infidelities, alcohol-infused arguments, and betrayals.

Brad Cooper was arrested for his wife's murder—but the investigation didn't end there. Police continued to search for the smoking gun, the one piece of incontrovertible evidence that would seal his fate. They found it in the form of a Google Map search of the site where Nancy's body was dumped. Prosecutors say Brad performed the search on his computer at work 12 hours before his wife disappeared.

After a contentious 10-week trial, Brad Cooper was convicted of killing Nancy. But the controversy over his guilt still lingered. Some believed that he was railroaded by overzealous police and prosecutors in what was a largely circumstantial case. Ultimately, the North Carolina Court of Appeals overturned his conviction ruling the trial court judge had made several mistakes. But there would not be another trial—Brad cut a deal with the state. He admitted to second degree murder in return for a shorter sentence. He is scheduled to be released from prison in 2020.

Love Lies would be a perfect vehicle for film because it exposes the subtleties of domestic abuse that we can't see against the backdrop of an alleged suburban paradise that turns out to be anything but heavenly.

For more about Amanda, see www.ALambAuthor.com



DEADLY DOSE

The Untold Story of a Homicide Investigator's
Crusade for Truth and Justice

By Amanda Lamb
Penguin Random House

Ann Miller wasn't the kind of woman anyone would suspect of being a killer, anyone *except* veteran homicide detective Chris Morgan.

When pediatric AIDS researcher Eric Miller died of an unknown illness at the hospital in Raleigh, North Carolina, his grieving wife came to the police station to give a statement. But almost immediately, Morgan saw something unnerving in the mousy, demure woman who appeared to everyone else to be a victim.

Deadly Dose is an excellent vehicle for film because it documents the investigation of one of the few sociopathic female killers of our times. Ann was a scientist, a mother, a churchgoing woman, not someone who schemed and plotted the demise of her kind and brilliant husband. In the tradition of some of the most famous female killers in history, she used arsenic to take her husband's life.

The main character for the film would be Chris Morgan, the larger-than-life tough-talking cop who refuses to rest until he sees Ann behind bars. For four years, he pursues her as she leaves Raleigh and continues on with her life. He soon discovers that behind the façade, she isn't at all who she pretended to be.

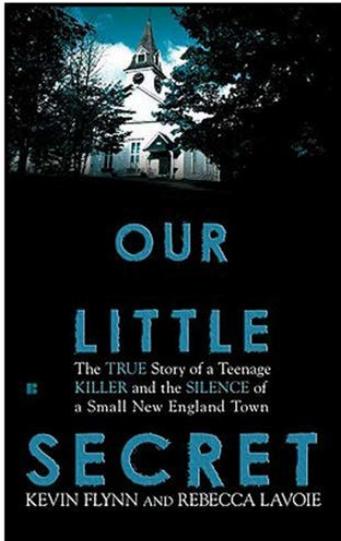
Ann had a series of lovers. One man in particular she called upon to help with her husband's murder. When he fell down on the job, she decided to finish it herself. But the lover couldn't take the heat of the police moving in on him, trying to get him to talk and ended his own life.

A film version of *Deadly Dose* as told through the eyes of investigator Morgan would have viewers on the edge of their seats, and husbands constantly looking over their shoulders...

For more about Amanda, see www.ALambAuthor.com

OUR LITTLE SECRET

The True Story of a Teenage Killer and the Silence of a Small New England Town



By Kevin Flynn and Rebecca Lavoie
Penguin Random House

Just as “Gone Baby Gone” made audiences question the difference between the law and the right thing to do, so will **Our Little Secret**. This true story will have everyone asking himself or herself, “What would I do?” If you knew your friend killed somebody, would you keep it a secret? What if you thought the victim deserved to die?

Our Little Secret explores a 20-year-old New Hampshire cold case. In 1985, Danny Paquette is shot square in the heart by a stray bullet from the woods 300 yards away. Although Danny’s sexual conquests have made him the enemy of many husbands, police rule his death an accident. They don’t believe anyone could make that precise of a shot.

Danny’s in-laws are not sad to see him die. His ex-wife had fled to Alaska to get away from him. His adopted daughter Melanie, whom he had sexually abused, is secretly living with relatives in another town. Her aunt is a homicide prosecutor. Danny’s brother, Victor, is a profane biker who lives outside the law. Ironically, he’s the one who pushes police to keep the case alive. Victor thinks the bullet that killed Danny might have been meant for him. Steve Agrafiotis was a rookie cop on the murder case, doing grunt work for investigators. In 2004, he is now the police chief and re-opens the case. He hires an 80-year-old civilian retiree to dive into the file. They focus on a then- 17-year-old boy named Eric Windhurst, who had been Melanie Paquette’s alibi. The kid was a crackerjack shot. An anonymous letter in the 90s accused Windhurst, but no one in his hometown would talk to cops.

Detectives fly across country to confront Melanie. She tells police Windhurst shot her father because Danny was about to learn where she was living. She feared he would come and rape her again. Windhurst agrees to kill Danny in order to protect Melanie.

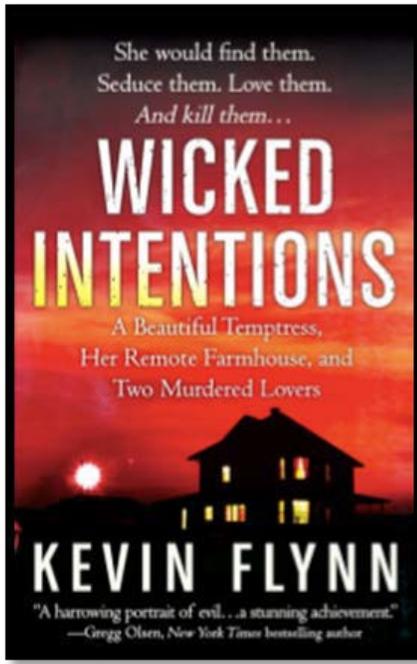
Windhurst’s actions are an open secret in town. Everyone knows; no one turns him in. They believe it was a justified killing. Authorities however find that grown-up Windhurst is a decent man haunted by his deadly action. As the case heads to trial, attorneys think no jury in the world will convict a man who killed a child molester. But then, one final twist. Prosecutors learn that Windhurst’s reasons for killing Danny Paquette have nothing to do with Melanie...

Our Little Secret is an unforgettable true morality play. There are no white hats/black hats. The victim is unsympathetic; the killer is righteous; the damsel in distress is manipulative.

For more see: www.AuthorKevinFlynn.com



To see book trailer: [Video Book Trailer](#)



WICKED INTENTIONS

The Sheila LaBarre Murders

By Kevin Flynn
New Horizon Press; St. Martin's Press

In the vein of “Monster” and “Zodiac” comes **Wicked Intentions**, the true story of a beautiful seductress who lured men to her secluded farm, then murdered them and incinerated their bodies. As **Wicked Intentions** opens, two police officers arrive at a farmhouse in the woods at dusk. They’re doing a well-being check on Kenny Countie, a man whose last known address was this farm. The home is deserted but they discover two fires actively burning in barrels. When they approach, they discover a human bone covered in burnt flesh.

Wicked Intentions follows the exploits of Sheila LaBarre, who spent years using her sexuality to allure men, and her anger to battle anyone who crossed her. Her home is filled with her “children,” hundreds of free-range rabbits. As police search her blood-splattered home and the 115 acres of pasture surrounding it, LaBarre eludes detectives. While

on the run (with three rabbits in tow), she charms and manipulates people into doing her bidding, giving her shelter, and proclaiming her innocence to the police and media.

Wicked Intentions is also the tale of a reporter obsessed by a story that should catapult him into the national spotlight. As in “Capote,” the reporter transforms from a mild-mannered, disinterested writer to an aggressive, take-no-prisoners journalist who is willing to cross lines in order to get the story, even do a killer’s bidding. As police and the media uncover the details of LaBarre’s past, they learn that many men had cycled through the farm in the past few years; none of them are accounted for. Flashbacks illustrate how Sheila conned the farm out of an elderly widow chiropractor, and about the many men who lived on the farm with her. Sheila would troll homeless shelters and telephone chat lines looking for men who were meek and easily led.

They were all beaten and battered by Sheila; virtual captives on the isolated farm. LaBarre is eventually captured and her attorneys mount an insanity defense. To the horror of all, it seems Kenny Countie isn’t the only man she killed, dismembered, and incinerated on her farm. To this day, authorities cannot say just how many are out there.

Wicked Intentions is a gripping true crime story that transcends the genre. Part murder mystery, part psychological study, its protagonist, a female serial killer, offers an actress an eat-the-furniture role that also has real pathos. Equally suitable as a MOW or a feature film, **Wicked Intentions** stands apart from other black widow tales.

For more about Kevin, see www.AuthorKevinFlynn.com

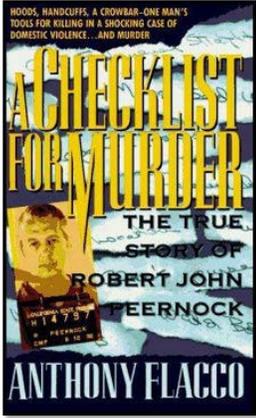


To See Book Trailer: [Video Book Trailer](#)

A CHECKLIST FOR MURDER

By Anthony Flacco
Penguin Random House/Diversion Books

Screenplay available



Stark reality and rampant paranoia blend and blur in this deep psychological thriller. The story opens as 18-year-old Natasha Peernock is found lying half dead in the wreckage of a burning car, only a few feet from her mother's body. Both women have been severely beaten with a tire iron, the only difference being that Natasha barely survives. In the hospital, we see from her POV while she tells a tale of being kidnapped by her own father, Robert Peernock, who blindfolded, bound, and tortured her for nearly 11 hours while Daddy waited for Mommy to come home. Natasha says that he then beat her mother to death and loaded both of them into the car and rigged it to crash.

Robert Peernock produces an alibi *and* a compelling alternate theory of this crime— he is a computer programmer working for the State of California, who claims to have discovered government corruption in the awarding of state contracts. He has been a victim of constant harassment because of his whistle-blowing activities. As a point of proven fact, Peernock has already won numerous lawsuits against the organizations he has targeted, and he claims to be on the verge of releasing a detailed book that traces government corruption from office to office, all the way up to the Governor of State of California.

He protests that he is being framed. His daughter was drugged and brainwashed, and then the murder was set up to implicate him—all in order to destroy his credibility. His opponents would then be safe from the effects of his book, even if he ever got it published.

Police reject Robert Peernock's alibi. They want him to come in for another interview. He flees town.

Even so, he continues to communicate with police, via his attorney. He reveals that he is afraid to return, because the police work for the same forces that Peernock is trying to expose. He is sure that he will become a "jailhouse suicide" if he surrenders. So, in a desperate effort to hide from them, he gets plastic surgery in Las Vegas and returns to L.A. in secret, where his girlfriend helps him avoid capture for months. He fails to assist in his daughter's recovery or attend his wife's funeral.

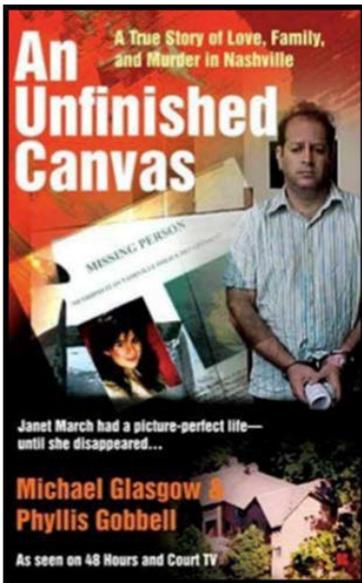
Eventually, Detective Steve Fisk puts in enough overtime to track him down and Assistant District Attorney Craig Richman begins to look for holes in Peernock's alibi. But... when civil attorney Victoria Doom enters the case *pro bono* to help shattered Natasha get put her life back together, she discovers a host of contrasting details and helps to prove that Peernock has committed a near-perfect murder. The question regards motive. Before the crimes, he had already been granted his wife's permission for a divorce—and even after splitting their estate, they would both be very well off. So why would he attack his own daughter? Natasha herself talked about how she used to be the apple of her father's eye. Young Natasha suffers violent recurring nightmares about the crime— at the same time, her jailed father suffers from nightmares about being set up and convicted for murder. It is only because of Victoria Doom's after-hours passion for this case that the truth finally comes out: Robert Peernock indeed would have committed the perfect murder if only he had not been so obsessive about keeping his detailed checklist for murder.

Victoria Doom reveals that Peernock's fight against the state drove his paranoia out of control, until he became convinced that both his ex-wife and his daughter had been enlisted in the state's clandestine struggle to silence him. After a fierce murder trial filled with screaming outbursts— and a bound and gagged defendant in the courtroom— Robert Peernock's jury finds him guilty of 1st Degree Murder along with a host of accompanying crimes.

Later, while Doom helps Natasha to quietly get on with her life in an out-of-state location, word comes from the police that Peernock is in jail trying to hire a killer to go after his daughter and finish the job on her. He is working at this task with the relentless patience of an obsessive madman.

The story ends with Peernock in his solitary cell, hand drawing the new home page for his website: It shows a picture of him bound and gagged in court during his trial. The caption cries: "Innocent whistle-blower!" For the text underneath, he writes: "This is the story of an innocent man..." and smiles as he reads back over his handiwork.

For more about Anthony, see www.AnthonyFlacco.com



AN UNFINISHED CANVAS

A True Story of Love, Family, and Murder in Nashville

By Michael Glasgow and Phyllis Gobbell
Penguin Random House



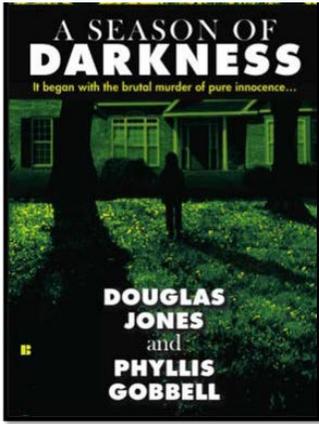
The electrifying true-crime thriller, *An Unfinished Canvas*, brilliantly captures a unique cast of characters. Janet March, the attractive young wife of corporate lawyer Perry March, had it all: two children she adored, a flourishing career as an artist, and a dream house she had designed. What no one knew was that her husband, attorney to the rich and powerful, led a destructive double life of secrets and lies. The night before she was scheduled to meet with a divorce lawyer, Janet simply vanished. Perry maintained that they argued, and Janet drove away, promising to return for their son's sixth birthday. But no one ever saw or heard from Janet March again.

Janet and Perry March are rising stars in Nashville, a city in the New South that is rising, as well. Larry Levine, an intimidating attorney, and his wife Carolyn will stop at nothing – even a secret mission in Mexico to retrieve their grandchildren– in the quest to find justice for their daughter. Perry's father, Arthur March, lures Perry to Mexico to begin a new life, but in the tradition of the best Shakespearean dramas, father turns against son, exposing their conspiracy to murder Janet's parents. Inmate Nathaniel Farris is a street-smart kid who cons the arrogant Perry March, working with police and the D.A. to expose a plot against Larry and Carolyn Levine.

The book chronicles the bizarre events on the night Janet March was last seen and during the disturbing two weeks before she was reported missing; Perry March's flight with his children to Mexico; the international custody battle over the two March children, Sammy and Tzipora. A decade after Janet's disappearance, Nashville's Cold Case Unit develops a case against Perry, and a secret grand jury is empaneled. Following his murder indictment, and with the involvement of the FBI and the office of Mexican President, Perry is arrested and extradited back to Tennessee. Excellent detective work uncovers a scheme by Perry March from behind bars, while he is awaiting trial, to hire a hit-man to murder his former in-laws. Perry goes to trial almost 10 years to the day from the date his young wife vanished. Assistant D.A. Tom Thurman has his work cut out for him– no body, no cause of death, no physical evidence– but in the third of a series of trials, Perry March is found guilty. The “smartest guy in the room” goes to prison for 56 years.

The March case received national attention over the decade from 1996 to 2006, during which time CBS's *48 Hours* aired four episodes. Leslie Stahl stated, “This is as good a mystery as you will ever see—in fiction or in real life.”

For more about Phyllis, see www.phyllisgobbell.com



SEASON OF DARKNESS

Marcia Trimble and the Coldest Cold Case Solved

By Doug Jones and Phyllis Gobbell
Penguin Random House

Radio personality Teddy Bart, on the Marcia Trimble case:

"It had all the elements: a beautiful little girl, a murder, a bungled police operation, fundamentalist religion, and a neighborhood where things like this aren't supposed to happen."

It is a spring-like February afternoon in 1975. Nine-year-old Marcia Trimble, who lives in a quiet, attractive neighborhood, goes across the street to deliver Girl Scout cookies. She never comes home. Her disappearance prompts a massive search, unlike anything known in Nashville, Tennessee. Turf wars develop among the various police units, each with its own command structure. Volunteers trek through the neighborhood leaving millions of fingerprints and footprints before FBI agents arrive. Police set up a command post in a bedroom of the Trimble house. Detectives question Jeffrey Womack, who lives on Marcia's street. The 15-year-old has a condom in his pocket and "Fuck You" written on his shoes. He is targeted as a suspect, and police will pursue him for more than 30 years.

Young detective Diane Vaughn has been working a series of rapes and the murder of a college coed named Sarah Des Prez, all within a five-mile radius of the Trimbles' neighborhood. She is close to connecting those vicious crimes. But she is drawn away into the search for Marcia Trimble, which has consumed police, the media, and the entire city.

Marcia's mother, Virginia Trimble, is a devoutly religious woman, one whose stoic demeanor in front of the TV cameras fuels nasty rumors and innuendos. On Good Friday, Virginia tells reporters, "It is a time of miracles. Who knows what may happen?" On Easter morning, 33 days after Marcia's disappearance, the child's body is discovered in a deteriorated garage less than 200 yards from the Trimbles' front door. The family is grief-stricken. The city is in shock. One statement will come to define the Marcia Trimble murder: "In that moment, Nashville lost its innocence."

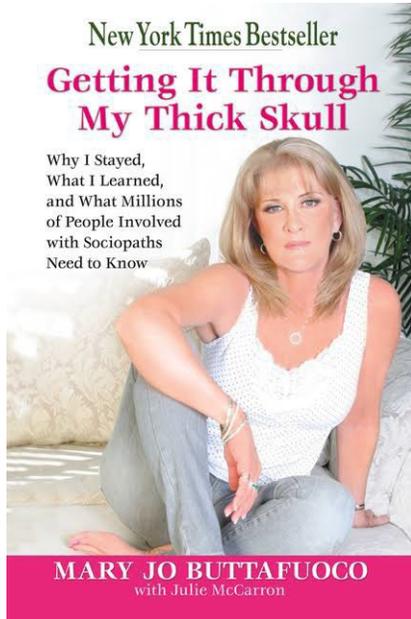
The police are under even more pressure to solve what is now a homicide. They focus their investigation on the boys in the neighborhood, with Jeffrey Womack as the prime suspect. In the wake of bizarre stories involving the children, many of the families move away. The Trimble murder and investigation take a brutal toll on Marcia's family, her neighborhood, and the police department. The Marcia Trimble story becomes part of the fabric of Nashville.

What follows is a trail of twists, turns, frustrating dead ends, lives forever damaged, and a city forever changed. The mystery evolves over three decades. Investigators are criticized for their "tactics of intimidation" in obtaining DNA samples from more than 100 young men, most of whom were "boys in the neighborhood" in 1975. Though no evidence ever implicates Jeffrey Womack, he remains under a cloud of suspicion. It seems the case will never be solved.

But in 2007, the reopening of another 1975 case plunges Cold Case detective Bill Pridemore into the heart of the Marcia Trimble case again. He takes a fresh look at all the evidence. The good police work by Detective Diane Vaughn, deceased since the 1980s, leads Pridemore to an astonishing revelation about the Des Prez murderer—paving the way for a shocking, long-awaited conclusion to the coldest of cold cases: the Marcia Trimble murder.

For more about Phyllis, see www.phyllisgobbell.com

GETTING IT THROUGH MY THICK SKULL



By Mary Jo Buttafuoco
HCI

Mary Jo Buttafuoco’s anonymous life as a suburban wife and mother in sleepy Massapequa, New York, ended in May 1992, when she was shot in the head on her own front porch. The “Long Island Lolita” saga sparked a media frenzy that continues to this day. As the years passed Mary Jo steadfastly stood by her man, Joey Buttafuoco, and while he and Amy Fisher continued to make headlines, one question lingered in the minds of people everywhere: Why did she stay for *so* long?

In *Getting It Through My Thick Skull*, Mary Jo finally answers that question fully and convincingly. The answer is simple, yet it took almost three decades of turmoil to discover for herself—she was married to a sociopath.

Using her tragic and triumphant life lessons and never-before-told accounts of life with Joey, Mary Jo helps readers understand sociopathic behavior and the emotional traps they spring on willing partners and offers hope and help for the millions of people caught in the cycle of toxic relationships.

In addition, readers will meet a new-and-improved Mary Jo, confident and at peace with her new life and will be inspired by her comeback—a true reclamation and recreation of her life from the inside out. Through private details of the resiliency and rebuilding she has forged over the past seventeen years, Mary Jo shares for the first time: her addiction to painkillers, and her recovery through the Betty Ford Center; her overdue decision to leave Joey and start over again in California—3,000 miles from her support system; how she took control of her physical, spiritual, and emotional health, and learned to feel attractive and in control again; her highly controversial forgiveness of Amy Fisher; the letters she received from both Amy and Joey, and her reactions to both.

GRAPHIC NOVELS



MISMATCHED

Written by Anne Camlin
Illustrated by Isadora Zeferino

Young Adult Graphic Novel – Little Brown Books for Young Readers, 2023

In this modern-day adaptation of *Emma*, created by Isadora Zeferino and Anne Camlin, Austen’s protagonist becomes Evan Horowitz, an Insta-famous Jewish kid from Queens, who woos popularity with his make-up skills and runs his school’s Gay-Straight Alliance like an empire. Evan is smart, cute, and funny, and he flaunts it—much to the chagrin of his Mr. Knightley, his geeky, level-headed childhood friend Davi. After Evan introduces his sister to her boyfriend, he’s convinced he has the “magic touch” necessary to create perfect matches, and he turns his attentions on Natalia, a mousy new student and perfect project. But his attempts to get Natalia a boyfriend turn disastrous as he misreads the desires of everyone around him and becomes tangled in the love lives of the GSA members—the ones he imagines for them, and the very different real stories he discovers through trial and error.

Feelings are hurt and damage is done, but the truth outs, and Evan must confront the consequences of his meddling and come to terms with his own romantic interests.



Journey to Stars

Written and Illustrated by Kay Davault
Middle Grade Graphic Novel — Random House Graphic, Spring 2022

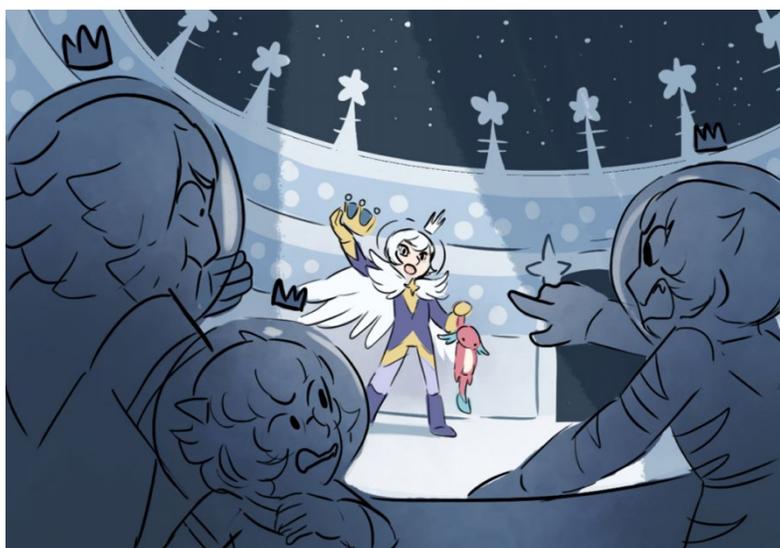


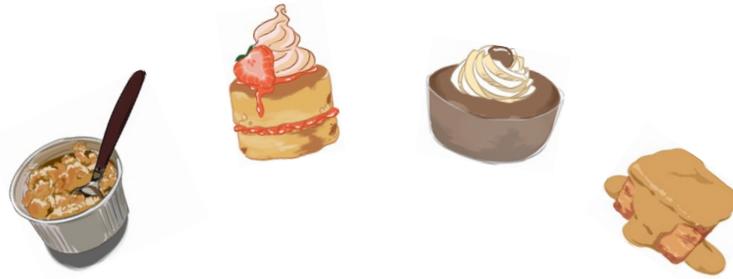
Journey to Stars is a fantasy adventure GN which follows Tad, a young frog who is fascinated with the legends of the Star Knights—animals who were granted human forms and magic through the power of fallen stars. Tad longs to become one, too, and to finally put an end to the evil Marsh Witch, who transformed the knights of old into monsters. But when Tad learns the Witch was also a frog, and that frogs and salamanders are considered by all to be inherently vile, Tad instead comes to resent himself. One night, when the stars mysteriously begin to fall into the marsh once more, Tad makes a wish to hide his true identity, and is swept up in a journey to help the fallen Star King, Stello, return to space.

But even with his wish granted, Tad soon realizes his problems can't all be solved by changing his appearance. When it's revealed Stello himself is hiding a secret identity, Tad must overcome his insecurities to save his only friend from a kingdom of corrupted Star Knights, who

look to harvest the magical stars for themselves. Based loosely on the fairytale of the frog prince, *Journey to Stars* focuses on friendship and love, and the power of accepting one's true self.

<https://www.kaydavault.com>





BATTER ROYALE

Written and Illustrated by Leisl Adams

YA Graphic Novel – Publishing with Abrams in 2022

Baking competition romantic comedy.

17-year-old Rose is a waitress and aspiring chef with a secret love of inventing desserts. Fred is an apprentice chef stuck working at his mother's failing restaurant, the Quayga Diner. When a popular food magazine critic walks through the door, Rose and Fred impress her with their baking skills, and she invites them to travel to London to enter a cutthroat reality baking contest called Winner's Dozen. What have they got to lose?

The competition is an intense 10 days of strange challenges, fierce rivalry, and backstage drama. Rose and Fred are completely in over their heads! Their main rival, Misty, will lie, cheat, and ruin relationships in order to win, and when Rose almost loses a round, and Fred's family's restaurant goes into foreclosure, the team's stability is threatened.

Batter Royale is a fish-out-of-water style comedy with a bit of *The Hunger Games* thrown in. Geared toward teen female readers and lovers of the Great British Baking Show, it's about climbing out of the circumstances you're in and realizing that you don't need to be cutthroat to get ahead.

<https://leisladams.com/>

BUTTON PUSHER

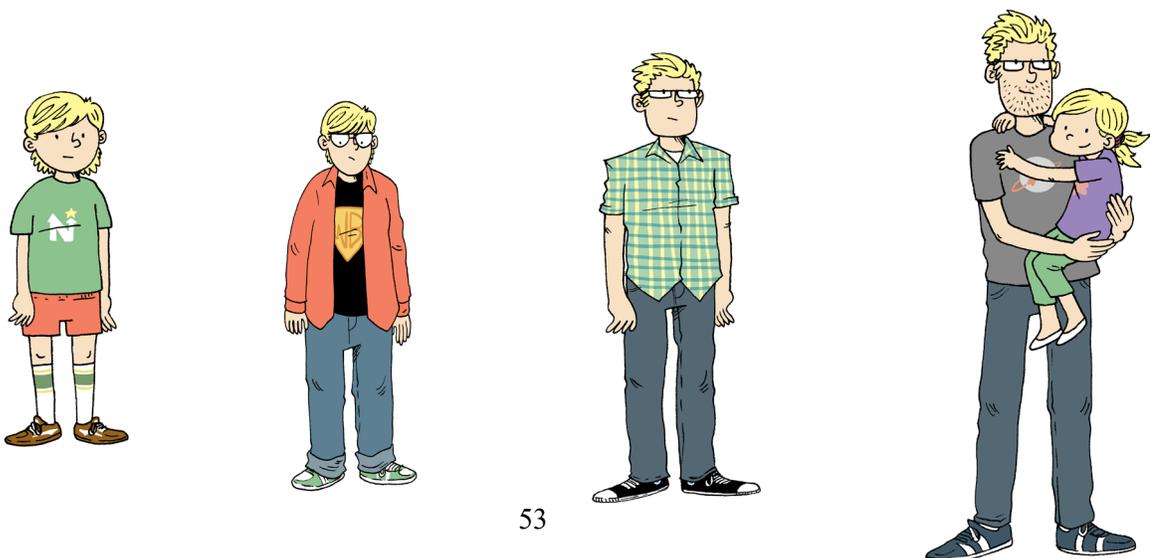
by Tyler Page

Middle Grade Graphic Novel – First Second (Hachette) 2021

When Tyler is diagnosed with ADHD in the second grade, he's put on Ritalin and casually told he'll "grow out of it." But his hyperactive behavior doesn't stop and the recommended family therapy sessions reveal that ADHD runs in his family, long undiagnosed and untreated in his violent father.

From Eisner nominated Tyler Page, *BUTTON PUSHER* chronicles the life of a boy diagnosed with ADHD in 1985, before it was really understood or even talked about. As Tyler grows up, he struggles to get answers about his diagnosis due to the social etiquette of the time. As a child, he wonders if his brain is "broken," and what the medication he takes every day even does. He questions if he'll really outgrow his impulsive behavior or end up like his father. It isn't until he becomes a parent himself that he gains the courage to go out and get the answers about ADHD and his family that he's been looking for all his life.

<https://tylerpage.tumblr.com/>



THE TUNE WITHOUT WORDS

Written by Tina Cho, illustrated by Deborah Lee

Middle Grade Graphic Novel – Publishing with Harper Alley in 2023

Background: The Asian Underground Railroad is a secret network of safe houses designed to help people escape an oppressive, impoverished country and find freedom in a safer, healthier place. After hearing about the AUR, author Tina Cho interviewed two AUR refugees, as well as one of the organizers of the operation. Their accounts kicked off months of research, which Cho funneled into the poignant, unforgettable story THE TUNE WITHOUT WORDS, which won second place in Scholastic Asia’s novel writing competition in 2016.

Description: When North Koreans are caught trying to flee their country, they’re repatriated and imprisoned in brutal concentration camps. So when shy, resourceful Yunho and fierce Joo Ri resolve to run away from the bleak futures they face, they know their lives are at stake. After making it to the first safehouse, they change their appearance—they gain weight, Joo Ri cuts her hair short, and they are provided with a new wardrobe that will help them blend in. They face many trials on the AUR route—poisonous jungle snakes, midnight boat trips, a sprained ankle, imprisonment, corrupt soldiers, and the daily fear of being found out and sent back.

www.TinaMCho.com



GARLIC & THE VAMPIRE

Written and Illustrated by Bree Paulsen

Middle Grade Graphic Novel

HarperCollins, Fall 2021

Film Rep: Mary Pender, UTA



Garlic lives in a small village of anthropomorphic-vegetable people that take care of the local witch's garden. The Witch created each veggie person to tend to their specific vegetable (Garlic grows garlic, Carrot grows carrots, etc.).

Their normal routine of harvesting and selling crops in the community market is disrupted when some smoke is spotted rising from the nearby abandoned castle. The Witch tells the veggie folk that it's rumored a vampire used to reside in that castle and, perhaps, he has returned.

The veggie folk follow the Witch to her cottage and watch her work on a seeing spell to spy in the castle. A wave of panic washes over the veggie folk crowd as they see the vampire's face. Immediately they turn their attention to Garlic.

They elect that Garlic, with her inherent protection as a "vampire repellent," should go up to castle and confront the vampire. The overly anxious but eager to please Garlic begins to panic under the pressure. She confides in her closest friend, Carrot, that she isn't brave enough to confront a vampire. Carrot responds with a slew of hypothetical dangers that will occur if the vampire isn't dealt with. Doesn't Garlic see that he'll kill the humans in the sister village? He might even destroy their land and turn them into his minions. Surely, Garlic must see that vampires plot to shroud the world in darkness.

Afraid for her friends, Garlic eventually agrees to go to the castle. The Witch gives her some items of protection, including some stakes, a mallet, and a bag of small seeds (vampires must count scattered seeds) and with the Witch's raven familiar at her side, Garlic embarks on the treacherous journey's through the woods. But when she finally makes it to the castle, she isn't at all prepared for what she finds.

Balancing heavier themes against grand adventure, this charming Middle Grade graphic novel is Over the Garden Wall meets Adventure Time. GARLIC & THE VAMPIRE will appeal to fans of Star Vs. the Forces of Evil with its cast of distinct characters and magical worldbuilding. *The first two books in this series will lay the groundwork for future epic adventures.



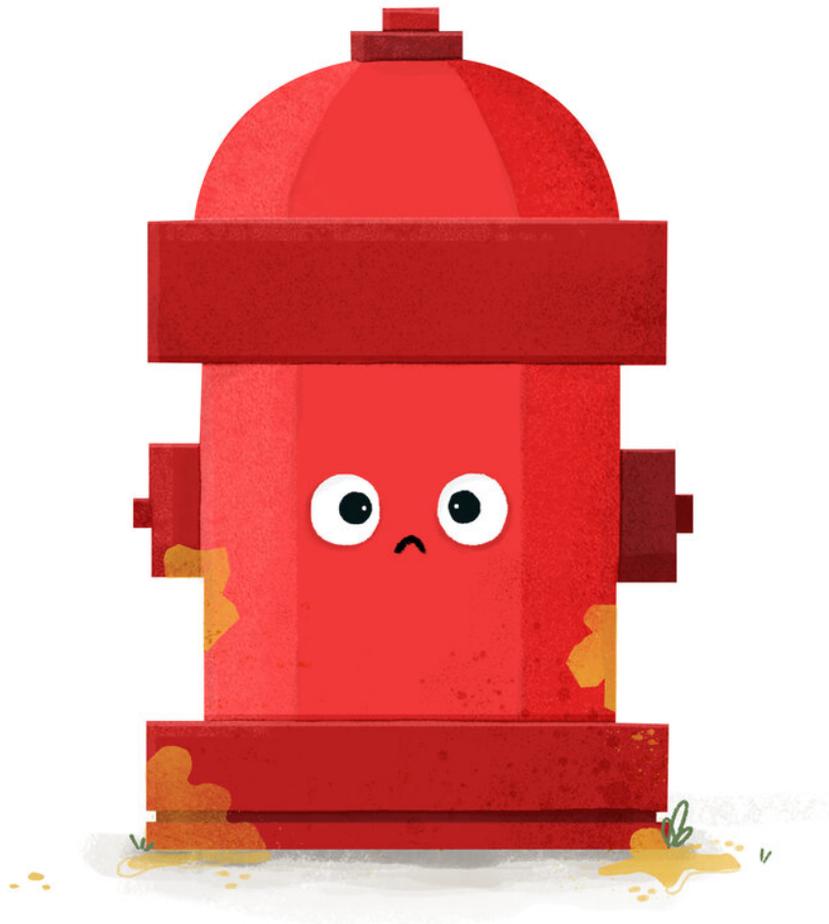
Paulsen studied animation at the Laguna College of Art and Design (LCAD). In 2014, she graduated from LCAD with a BFA in animation. She has illustrated several children's books for Xist Publishing, and she took a stop-motion master class with Stephen Chiodo during the summer break before her senior year at LCAD. After graduation, she took an internship as a set and prop fabricator on the 2015 stop-motion video game Armikrog from Pencil Test Studios. In late August 2013, she started her on-going webcomic Patrik the Vampire, a slice-of-life story about a vampire living among humans that explores themes of guilt, grief, and trust in comedic scenarios, which receives over 5,000 views per week. Bree successfully crowdfunded the first printed volume of Patrik the Vampire in February 2016, and she was a special guest at 2019's San Diego Comic Con in recognition of the comic's popularity and praise. <https://www.vampiresnwhimsy.com>

**Children
And
Young Adult**

LOU

by Breanna Carzoo

Picture Book – Publishing with HarperCollins Children in 2022



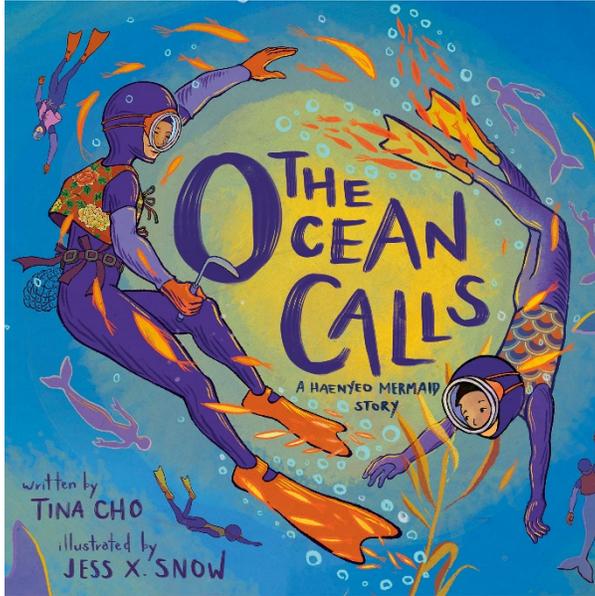
Lou is a fire hydrant, but Lou doesn't know he's a fire hydrant. He is under the assumption that he is just the neighborhood toilet for dogs. Oblivious to a fire that breaks out behind him, Lou will need to listen to his gut, instead of his head, in order to discover that maybe he has a grander purpose.

About the author/illustrator: Breanna Carzoo lives in the Bay Area with a tiny dog named Ozzie who, disappointingly, sees fire hydrants as toilets. Check out more of her work here: www.breannacarzoo.com.

THE OCEAN CALLS: A Haenyeo Mermaid Story

Written by Tina Cho

Picture Book – Publishing with Kokila (Penguin Random House) in 2020



***A Junior Library Guild Gold Standard Selection**

- **Kirkus:** https://www.kirkusreviews.com/book-reviews/tina-m-cho/the-ocean-calls/?fbclid=IwAR2KXuzDWTWV-NeHMTgDhgqmcV_j1Mo0AfQjBLU-ZusicdMRwzbO-95EyMg&page=3
- **Publishers Weekly:** <https://www.publishersweekly.com/978-1-984814-86-9>
- **Booklist:** <https://www.booklistonline.com/The-Ocean-Calls-A-Haenyeo-Mermaid-Story-Jess-X-Snow/pid=9732520?AspxAutoDetectCookieSupport=1>

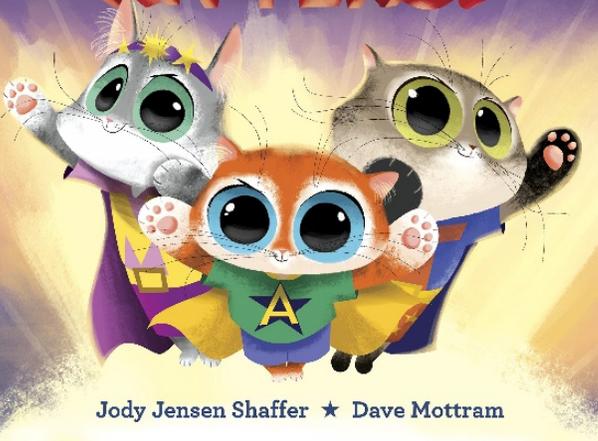
A breathtaking picture book featuring a Korean girl and her haenyeo (free diving) grandmother about intergenerational bonds, finding courage in the face of fear, and connecting with our natural world.

Dayeon wants to be a haenyeo just like Grandma. The haenyeo dive off the coast of Jeju Island to pluck treasures from the sea--generations of Korean women have done so for centuries. To Dayeon, the haenyeo are as strong and graceful as mermaids. To give her strength, Dayeon eats Grandma's abalone porridge. She practices holding her breath while they do the dishes. And when Grandma suits up for her next dive, Dayeon grabs her suit, flippers, and goggles. A scary memory of the sea keeps Dayeon clinging to the shore, but with Grandma's guidance, Dayeon comes to appreciate the ocean's many gifts.

Tina Cho's *The Ocean Calls*, with luminous illustrations by muralist Jess X. Snow, is a classic in the making.

www.TinaMCho.com

EMERGENCY KITTENS!



EMERGENCY KITTENS

By Jody Jensen Shaffer

Doubleday Books/PRH,

Reviewers love the EMERGENCY KITTENS!

“These kitties will win hearts with a glossy-eyed glance.” -Kirkus

“Radiant preciousness. . . . Even hardened skeptics will fall to helpless babbling at each glimpse of the fuzzy felines gamboling through Mottram’s bright suburban scenes.”—Booklist

“A winning, child-pleasing combo: superheroes and fuzzy kittens. In this Batman-meets-Fluffy tale of rescue, the Emergency Kittens bound off the page and come out victorious.”—BookPage

Got a problem? Having a tough day? Maybe you need . . . **EMERGENCY KITTENS!!!!**

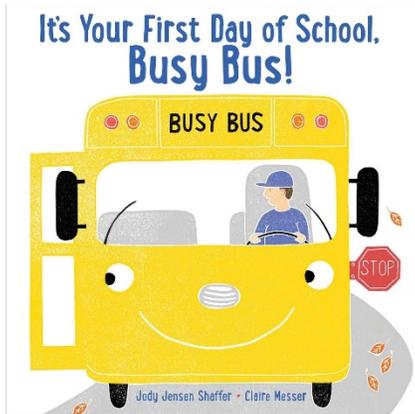
Who needs boring ol’ superheroes who leap giant buildings and run faster than locomotives when your day can be saved by the cuddly, super-cute, full-on feline charm of Mimi, Twee-Twee, and Adorbs, aka **EMERGENCY KITTENS!!!**

Meet the EMERGENCY KITTENS, a trio of furry, gentle superheroes who come to the rescue with their incredible cuteness when the going gets tough. When bullies steal Sheldon’s ball in the playground, a pack of your usual, every day, human caped crusaders leaps to the rescue. But when their showy feats of strength and agility fail to impress, some real heroes step in to save the day: **EMERGENCY KITTENS!!!** With their unending cuteness and unforgivably adorable purrs, this mighty trio of fluffy goodness turns any sticky situation into one of pure cuddles.

Pages of silly, good-natured giggles await any kid who loves superheroes, cats, or really funny read-alouds. And parents and teachers will like the gentle way this story subtly teaches that kindness and cuddles can often solve a problem that strength and muscle cannot.

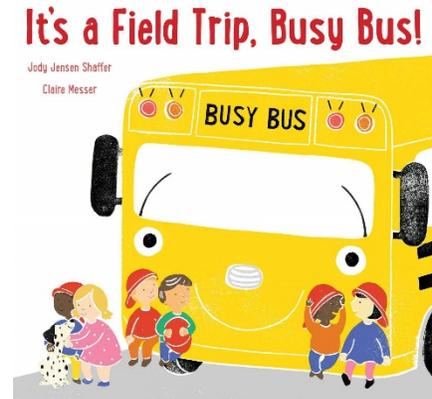
JODY JENSEN SHAFFER is an award-winning poet and the author of more than thirty books of fiction and nonfiction for children, including *Emergency Kittens!*, *A Chip off the Old Block*, the Busy Bus series, and *Prudence the Part-Time Cow*, Missouri’s pick for the 2017 National Book Festival and a nominee for Missouri’s 2019-2020 Show Me Readers Award. Jody lives with her husband, kids, and rescue dog in Liberty, Missouri.

Visit Jody at www.jodyjensenshaffer.com and follow her on Twitter at [@jodywrites4kids](https://twitter.com/jodywrites4kids).



Busy Bus series

By Jody Jensen Shaffer
Beach Lane/S&S



Join Busy Bus for a gaggle of fun adventures with this darling picture book series that showcases the excitement and worries little ones encounter as they experience new things at school!

In Busy Bus's first adventure, it's the first day of school! But is Busy Bus ready? Find out in this darling picture book that showcases the excitement and worries little ones experience as they prepare for their first day.

Today is the very first day of school! Busy Bus is excited, but he also has some first-day jitters. Will the children like him? Will he be homesick? What if he gets lost?! Luckily, bus driver Ben knows just what to do to make sure that the school year gets off to a great start.

In *It's Your First Day of School, Busy Bus!*, Busy Bus takes a field trip—and becomes a little jealous of a shiny red fire truck.

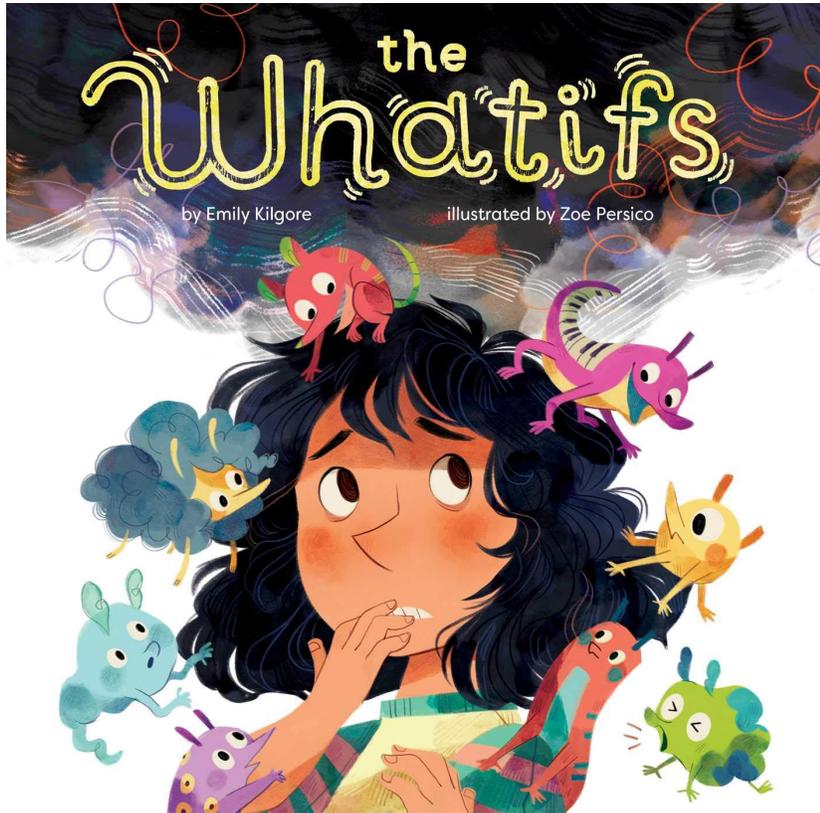
Today is Busy Bus's very first field trip! He takes the children to a fire house, where they meet Engine Four, a big, shiny, red firetruck. Engine Four has a hose to put out fires, a ladder to reach tall buildings, and a loud and impressive siren. Busy Bus has none of these things. Will the children still like him? This darling picture book offers a gentle exploration of jealousy and a reminder that we each have our own unique talents that make us special.

JODY JENSEN SHAFFER is an award-winning poet and the author of more than thirty books of fiction and nonfiction for children, including *Emergency Kittens!*, *A Chip off the Old Block*, the Busy Bus series, and *Prudence the Part-Time Cow*, Missouri's pick for the 2017 National Book Festival and a nominee for Missouri's 2019-2020 Show Me Readers Award. Jody lives with her husband, kids, and rescue dog in Liberty, Missouri. Visit Jody at www.jodyjensenshaffer.com and follow her on Twitter at [@jodywrites4kids](https://twitter.com/jodywrites4kids).

THE WHATIFS

Written by Emily Kilgore, illustrated by Zoe Persico

Publishing with Little Bee Books in 2020



"Kilgore successfully balances the whimsical with a tale grounded in reality." —Publishers Weekly

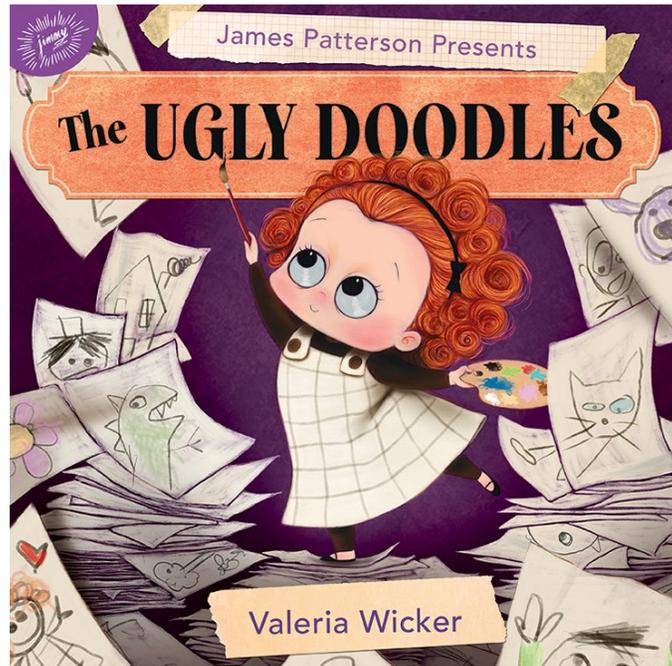
Cora has a curious case of the Whatifs. She is constantly wondering about things, like: *What if my dog runs away? What if my crayon breaks? What if the sun stops shining? What if I forgot my homework?* Most people think about their Whatifs for a minute or two and then briskly brush them off. This is not the case with Cora. As she prepares for an upcoming piano recital, the Whatifs cling on tighter and drag her down. That is, they do until Stella helps replace her worry-filled thoughts with wonder-filled thoughts instead.

<https://www.emilykilgore.com> www.zoepersico.com

THE UGLY DOODLES

Written and illustrated by Valeria Wicker

Jimmy Patterson Books (Little Brown/Hachette) in July 2020



"“Maybe every masterpiece starts with an ugly doodle!” she crows. If her lumpy masterpieces look more suitable for refrigerators than museum walls, the notion that art needs perspiration at least as much as inspiration is still a worthy one to draw. Like Peter H. Reynolds’ The Dot(2003) and Ish (2004), this is an effective way to get creative juices flowing with atmospheric illustrations to add an unexpected tickle of dramatic tension.” —Booklist

This hilarious and adorable picture book about creativity, fear of failure, and embracing your imperfections is perfect for kids and budding artists of all ages.

After an inspiring visit to the local art museum, Raven Rembrandt is eager to create her own beautiful masterpieces. But the only thing she can seem to draw are ugly doodles -- and they won't go away, no matter how hard she tries to discard them! After a few increasingly inventive attempts to get rid of them, Raven realizes that the only way to learn to love her art is to just *create*.

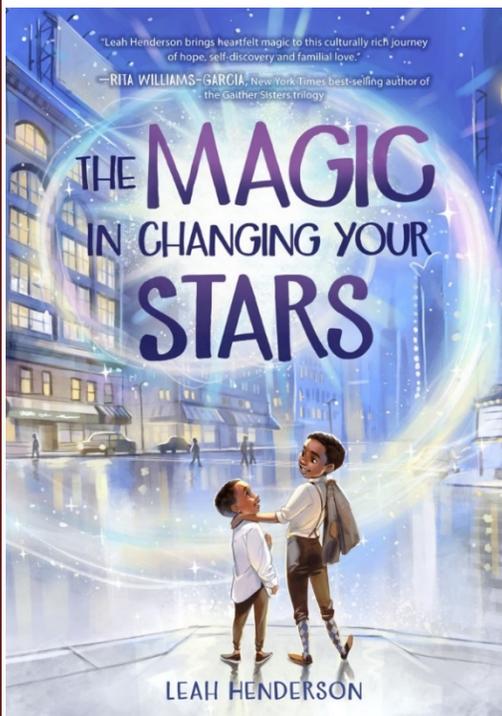
Valeria Wicker's endearing and quirky art style adds humor to her sweet and whimsical story about overcoming a fear of imperfection and failure.

About the Author

Valeria Wicker is an Italian Art School Graduate passionate about all types of Art. When she's not drawing, she can be found in her shop working on projects such as carving wood sculptures, restoring antique trunks, and refinishing furniture. Valeria resides in eastern Pennsylvania with her husband Mike, their five beautiful children, a bunny, and an adorable teddy-bear-like Labrador named Mia. www.ValeriaWicker.com



Watch booktrailer here: <https://vimeo.com/427436208/9c923470ad>



THE MAGIC IN CHANGING YOUR STARS

By Leah Henderson

Middle Grade Fiction

Sterling, August 2020

OPTIONED-B & B Theatricals!!

"A fast-paced story about family, bravery, and the arts, this story will have readers wanting to visit Harlem and tap alongside Ailey, Grampa, and Bojangles himself." - School Library Journal, starred review.

"Henderson weaves magical realism and historical fiction together, offering hard lessons about trying and grit, alongside overwhelming love of family, a lot of laughs, and a "smidgen of magic." Ailey's charisma is overwhelmingly enjoyable, and his faults and missteps add relatability. Readers will revel in how he navigates the past, while also coming to understand the depth of his relationship with Grampa." - Booklist, starred review

"Henderson's characters have such powerful names, evoking a legacy of black excellence that dovetails triumphantly with this story of facing regrets and achieving redemption. . . . Black excellence, black fantastic, and black family combine for a transformational story of passion and persistence." - Starred Kirkus Review

Eleven-year-old Ailey Benjamin Lane wants nothing more than to play Michael Jackson's Scarecrow in his school's production of *The Wiz*. The only problem is Ailey doesn't think he needs to practice. When a classmate overshadows him at auditions, a deflated Ailey uses a word his grandfather hates to hear: *never*. After Ailey confesses he is ready to give up before he really even tries, Grampa reveals his own big secret—a special pair of tap shoes given to him by the famous dancer and the unofficial “Mayor of Harlem,” Bojangles Robinson.

When the magic shoes unexpectedly transport Ailey back to 1930s Harlem, he befriends Grampa as a young street tap dancer. Ailey realizes he must help the twelve-year-old version of his Grampa overcome a lingering regret without messing up the future. In the process, Ailey finds the confidence to retake the stage—he just has to first figure out a way back to the future.

THE MAGIC IN CHANGING YOUR STARS is a story about family, stumbling, getting back up and never quitting on yourself or your dreams. Featuring an all African-American cast of characters and many moments infused with African-American culture and history, this is a time travel adventure that has been waiting to be told.

Leah Henderson is the author of ONE SHADOW ON THE WALL (Atheneum, Spring 2017) and will be included in the upcoming short story anthology edited by Ibi Zoboi, BLACK ENOUGH (Balzer + Bray). She also has four picture books related to African-American history in the works with major publishers.

www.leahhendersonbooks.com

<http://mrschureads.blogspot.com/2020/06/the-magic-in-changing-your-stars-by.html>

NO ORDINARY THING

By Gail Zhuang-Schmidt
Published by Holiday House, 2020



A boy finds a time traveling snow globe that unravels the mysteries of his hidden past.

In 1908 New York, magician Elbert the Excellent invents special candles that outlast all others on the market. When he's scammed of the candles by a shrewd and greedy business tycoon, Elbert begins a long quest to seek the hidden secrets of time travel in order to take vengeance.

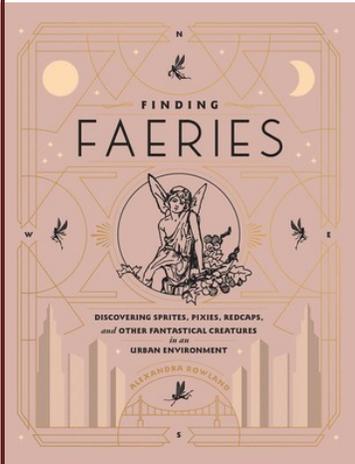
One century later, 12-year-old Adam LeeTripp discovers a magic snow globe that takes him on a series of journeys through time. Strangely, each individual Adam encounters through the snow globe has a past that is interwoven with his own—including a girl who plays in cemeteries, and a runaway candle seller. Tying their histories together is an abandoned candle factory, a factory that claimed multiple lives in a tragic fire years ago. A stranger from the factory's disturbing past shows up with his own ideas. The stranger seems to know every last detail about Adam and wants the snow globe for his own nefarious purposes, no matter the cost.

Told in multiple frame stories and timelines, **No Ordinary Thing**, connects two narratives and unravels the mysteries behind each. With a touch of whimsical narration, interwoven narratives, and adventure, Candlelight is great for fans of *The Inventions of Hugo Cabret* by Brian Selznick, *Echo* by Pam Muñoz Ryan's, and Ross Welford's *Time Traveling with a Hamster*. www.gzwrites.com

Finding Faeries: Discovering Spirits, Pixies, Redcaps, and Other Fantastical Creatures in an Urban Environment

By Alexandra Rowland

Fantasy Fiction Reference Guide — Tiller Press, Fall 2020



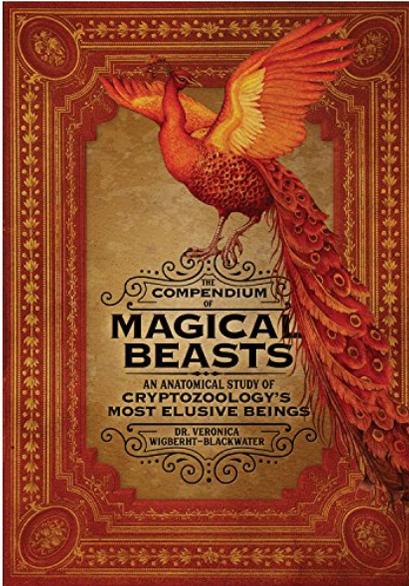
Discover where faeries and other mythical creatures are hiding in our modern, urban environment with this beautifully illustrated guide to uncovering magical beings. From the musty corners of libraries to the darkest depths of urban sewers, faeries, boggarts, redcaps, and other fantastical species can be found all around us—but only if we know where to look. And like every other being in the modern world, these wondrous creatures have been forced to adapt to the climate, industrial, and cultural changes of the modern era. Many formerly common creatures from akeki to cave trolls have been driven out by the urban sprawl, technological advancements, and climate change while others, including ether sprites and brownies, have been able to thrive in abundance, creating homes within electrical hotbeds and massive landfills.

Featuring descriptions of magical creatures from around the globe, this encyclopedic collection details the history and adaptability of more than fifty different species of faeries. Describing little-known and fascinating creatures such as the Luck Pigeon of Baltimore, the Ghost Cat of India, and the Brain Sucker of South Africa, this book will expose readers to fantastical species from a variety of cultures and communities.

Combining scholarship with modern lore and environmentalism, and featuring stunning hand-drawn illustrations, *Finding Faeries* is a captivating look at the fantastical beings that inhabit our world today.



Alexandra Rowland is the author of *A Conspiracy of Truths* and *A Choir of Lies*, and occasionally, a bespoke seamstress under the stern supervision of their feline quality control manager. They hold a degree in world literature, mythology, and folklore from Truman State University, and they are one of three hosts of the Hugo Award nominated literary podcast, *Be the Serpent*. Find them at AlexandraRowland.net, on Twitter [@AlexRowland](https://twitter.com/AlexRowland), or wandering the woods of western Massachusetts.



The Compendium of Magical Beasts

By Dr. Veronica Wigberht-Blackwater

Written by Melissa Brinks

Illustrated by Lily Seika Jones

“When explaining a crashed ship and lost cargo, it is perhaps more acceptable to claim beautiful maidens tempted you to the shore rather than an overindulgence in alcohol or falling asleep at the mast.” – From Dr. Veronica Wigberht-Blackwater’s findings on mermaids in **The Compendium of Magical Beasts**

The Compendium of Magical Beasts, written by Melissa Brinks and illustrated by Lily Jones, publishing with Running Press in Fall 2018, is a gorgeous coffee table book that compiles the fictitious findings of Dr. Veronica Wigberht-Blackwater, a fictional cryptozoologist who studied the anatomy of magical creatures.

The Compendium of Magical Beasts follows the fictitious academic career of Dr. Veronica Wigberht-Blackwater, a 1920s Era biologist, folklorist, and investigator of magical beasts. Her work is tinged with societal commentary and scientific analysis; her complex identity as a young female, Native American academic framing the edges of her research. With the scientific community chastising her research as silly and delusional, Dr. Veronica struggles to find the funds for her research, until she crosses paths with a wealthy businessman who is intrigued by her research and invests in it. But the financial backing comes at a price: she must let him come with her on her adventures as she tracks unicorns through thick and foggy forests, stalks vampires in Romania and resists the allures of sensuous sirens. And his financial backing will only last a year’s salary.

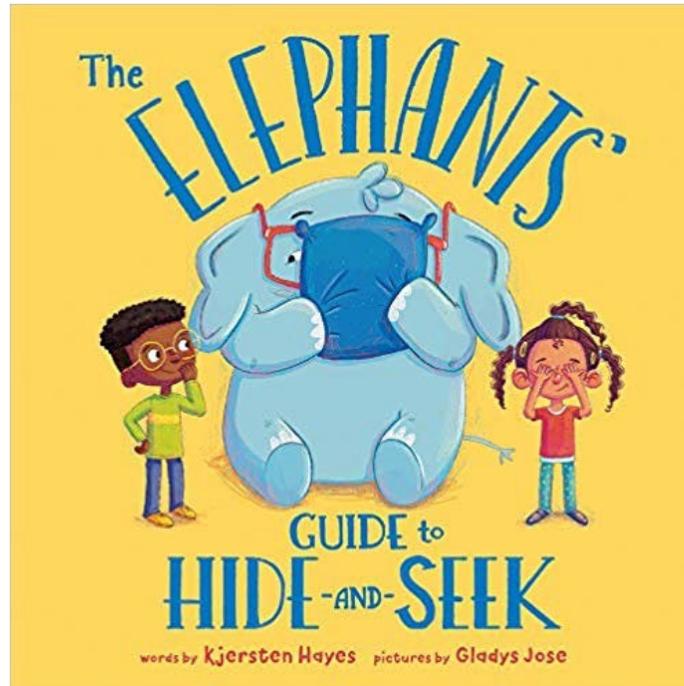
In over her head with the volume of work she’d like to accomplish in a year’s time, Dr. Veronica places an ad in a paper for an assistant, which introduces her to the artistically talented but easily distracted flapper who serves as her comedic relief side-kick and illustrator. As a bisexual Native American woman, she faces racism and sexism as well as the frequent necessity of keeping her romantic interests hidden. *The Compendium of Magical Beasts* is ripe for complex characters, an intriguing love triangle, and an element of light fantasy that blends together with science in a delightful way.

Each episode is a globe-trotting adventure where Dr. Veronica, her illustrator sidekick, and their financial backing focus on seeking out one magical creature in their natural habitat, in order to study and observe them.

For fans of *The Shape of Water*’s fairytale examination of bigotry, *Miss Fisher’s Murder Mysteries*’ charming characters and setting, the wonder and magic of *Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them*, and a center around a complex and lovable character like *Marvelous Mrs. Maisel*, *The Compendium of Magical Beasts* offers a fascinating show full of adventure, whimsy and heart.

<https://melissabrinks.com> www.lilyseikajones.com

THE ELEPHANTS' GUIDE TO HIDE-AND-SEEK



Text by Kjersten Hayes
Illustrations by Gladys Jose
Sourcebooks, April 2020

Elephants are great at many things...playing hide-and-seek is not one of them.

But The Elephant Hobby and Sport League is here to help all those frustrated, always "found" elephants out there with *The Elephants' Guide to Hide-and-Seek*. This handy guide offers sympathy, support and superior hiding solutions to elephants who long to overcome their size disadvantage when playing hide-and-seek.

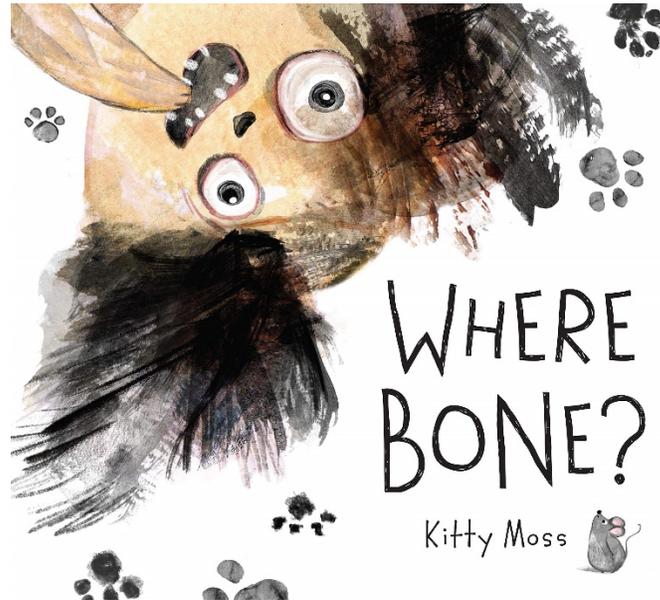
Kjersten Hayes is an artisan craft maker and children's book author from Bellingham, Washington. Read more about Kjersten at www.kjersten.com.

Gladys Jose is a popular illustrator on Instagram and children's book illustrator for several books, including THE FRESH PRINCESS, a picture book inspired by Will Smith's *The Fresh Prince*.

WHERE BONE

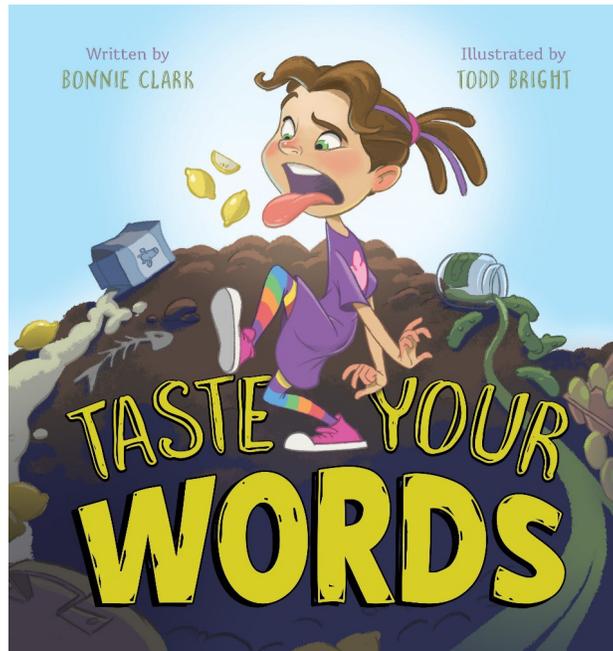
Written and illustrated by Kitty Moss

Picture Book – Publishing with Page Street Kids in 2020



Balthazar the dog is very flustered when he loses his bone. He rips his house apart frantically trying to find it—he checks the bathroom, the kitchen, the trash can, and every other possible nook and cranny. Will Balthazar find his bone, or will he have to accept that some things can never be found? The text from *GONE BONE GONE* reflects a delightfully endearing doggish sense of grammar and syntax, and the eccentric illustrations are rendered by the talented debut author/illustrator Kitty Moss. www.KittyMoss.com





TASTE YOUR WORDS

Written by Bonnie Clark, Illustrated by Todd Bright

Picture Book – Publishing with Worthy Kids in 2020

Amera's mom always tells her to taste her words before saying them, to see how sweet—or yucky—they are. When Amera calls her brother a name, she tastes a sour and bitter flavor—lemons and dirt! When she complains, she tastes sour milk, and then pickle juice. Bleck! But when she pauses to think about how she can use her words for good, things start tasting delicious—like birthday cake, jellybeans, strawberry ice cream and chocolate drizzle.

This project is written by Bonnie Clark and illustrated by former Disney/Pixar animator Todd Bright, whose credits include character design for Disney's *Mulan*, *Tarzan*, *Lilo & Stitch*, *The Hunchback of Notre Dame*, and more. You can check out more of his work at www.ToddBright.com



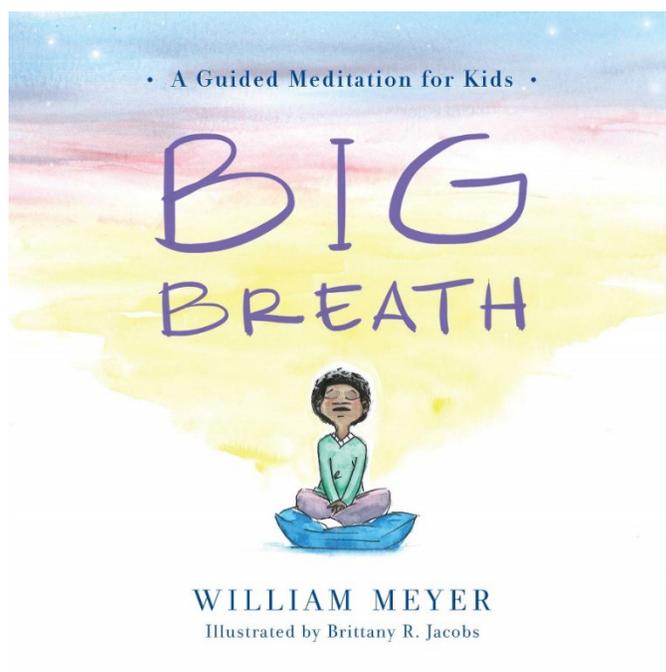
BIG BREATH

A Guided Meditation For Kids

Written by William Meyer
Illustrated by Brittany R. Jacobs

New World Library, 2019

***Starred Kirkus Review** <https://www.kirkusreviews.com/book-reviews/william-meyer/big-breath/>



Calm your worries and build your bravery — or just relax during a busy day or wind down before bed. All day long, you breathe — in and out, in and out — without even thinking about it. But did you know that you can play with your breath, use it to take you on an adventure? All you have to do is find a comfy spot and close your eyes. Does your breath sound like ocean waves? Like the wind before a storm or a breeze at the start of spring? Can you feel it all the way down to the tips of your toes? By the time you open your eyes, you might just feel a little lighter, calmer, more relaxed.

In *Big Breath*, William Meyer’s gentle prompts, alongside Brittany R. Jacobs’s wonderful illustrations, make meditation as fun as a game, but with big results.

www.BrittanyRJacobs.com

STOLEN SCIENCE

The Untold Stories of the Scientists and Inventors Almost Written out of History

**By Ella Schwartz
Bloomsbury Kids**

OPTIONED!

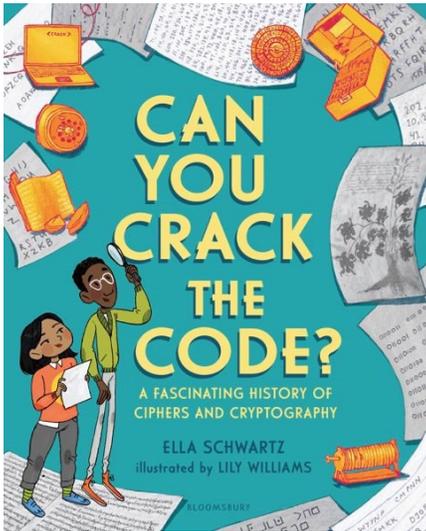
Sometimes history is a big lie.

Over the centuries, certain scientists and inventors have been overlooked time and again, not because their work wasn't brilliant, but because of who they were. For much of history, discriminated groups including women, minorities, and immigrants often had to claw their way past biases, only to have the credit for their discoveries stolen by their white, male colleagues. The goal of this book is to set the record straight and finally give credit where credit is due!

STOLEN SCIENCE: The Untold Stories of the Scientists and Inventors Almost Written out of History tells the stories of scientists not recognized for their work due to their race, gender, or ethnicity. *STOLEN SCIENCE* will celebrate the achievements of pioneering scientists who have paved the way for the next generation.

Written by established middle grade nonfiction author, Ella Schwartz, the creative mind behind *CAN YOU CRACK THE CODE? A FASCINATING HISTORY OF CIPHERS AND CRYPTOGRAPHY* (Bloomsbury 2019) and *MAKE THIS!* (Nat Geo 2019).

www.EllasBooks.com



CAN YOU CRACK THE CODE?

A Fascinating History of Ciphers and Cryptography

By Ella Schwartz
Bloomsbury Kids, April 2019

Selected for the Scholastic Summer Reading List 2019

Selected as a New York Public Library Book of the Month

Winner of the AAAS/Subaru Prize for Excellence in Science Books

Codes can carry big secrets! Throughout history, lots of good guys and lots of bad guys have used codes to keep their messages under wraps. This fun and flippable nonfiction features stories of hidden treasures, war-time maneuverings, and contemporary hacking as well as explaining the mechanics behind the codes in accessible and kid friendly forms. Sidebars call out activities that invite the reader to try their own hand at cracking and crafting their own secret messages. This is the launch of an exciting new series that invites readers into a STEM topic through compelling historical anecdotes, scientific backup, and DIY projects.

www.EllasBooks.com

HER NAME WAS MARY KATHERINE:

The Story of the Only Woman Whose Name Appears on the Declaration of Independence

Text by Ella Schwartz
Illustrations by Dow Phumirok

Spring 2021, Christy Ottaviano Books/Macmillan

BALTIMORE, in MARYLAND: Printed by MARY KATHARINE GODDARD.

George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Benjamin Franklin, John Hancock. These are the names most people associate with the American Revolution. Rarely do people think of influential women who impacted the founding of America. That's because their contributions have been largely ignored.

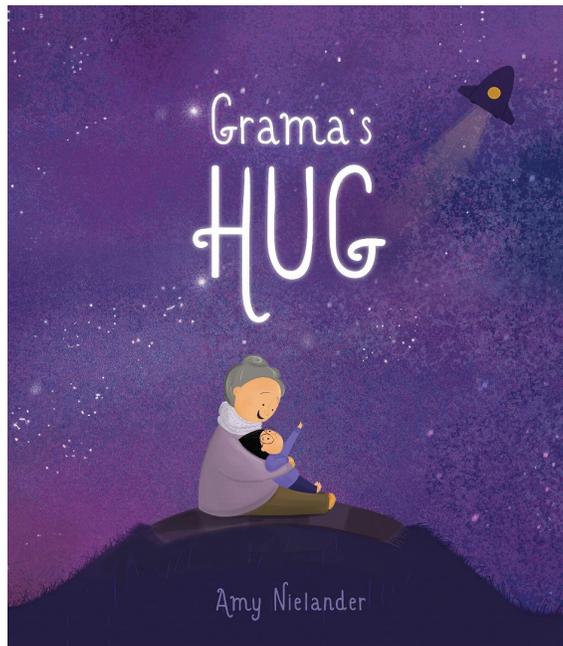
One such brave woman was Mary Katharine Goddard. Her name is the only woman's name that appears on an official copy of the Declaration of Independence. While she wasn't a signer of the Declaration, her role in the fight for our nation's freedom is equally important to our nation's history—yet Mary Katharine Goddard is barely recognized in history. This fierce patriot should be celebrated as one of our nation's Founding Mothers, but her legacy has faded into obscurity.

Mary Katharine Goddard defied societal norms of her time. While most colonial women barely learned how to read and write, Mary Katharine operated a successful printing business. She went on to run several colonial newspapers, including the influential *Maryland Journal*, which printed news of the Revolutionary War. She fought for the freedom of the press before the First Amendment was drafted. She campaigned fiercely for liberty and was as staunch of a patriot as any of the Founding Fathers. When she was bestowed the honor of printing an official version of the Declaration of Independence, she boldly added her name to the document, announcing to the world that she was ready to sacrifice her life for the vision of America she so strongly cherished.

It's time the world learned about Mary Katharine Goddard. Businesswoman, Journalist, Revolutionary, Patriot.

Ella Schwartz is the author of four upcoming middle grade books including *CAN YOU CRACK THE CODE? A FASCINATING HISTORY OF CIPHERS AND CRYPTOGRAPHY* (Bloomsbury, 2019). Ella is a cybersecurity specialist interfacing with the U.S. federal government on strategic technology initiatives. Read more about Ella at www.ellasbooks.com.

Dow Phumirok is an award-winning illustrator.



GRAMA'S HUG

Written and illustrated by Amy Nielander

Picture Book – Publishing with Page Street in 2020

** **Booklist, starred review** "This incredibly tender story packs a lifetime's worth of emotion into 40 pages, from the subtly tragic opening to the buoyant love between May and Grama to the heart-wrenching—and ultimately happy—ending."*

GRAMA'S HUG is a nearly wordless picture book about a space-loving girl genius named May and her grandma, who always parts ways with a hug, no matter what.

After winning a series of competitions, she wins the chance to travel to space! In the chaos of her boarding the spaceship, they're separated in the crowd. Will they be

able to find each other in order to say goodbye?

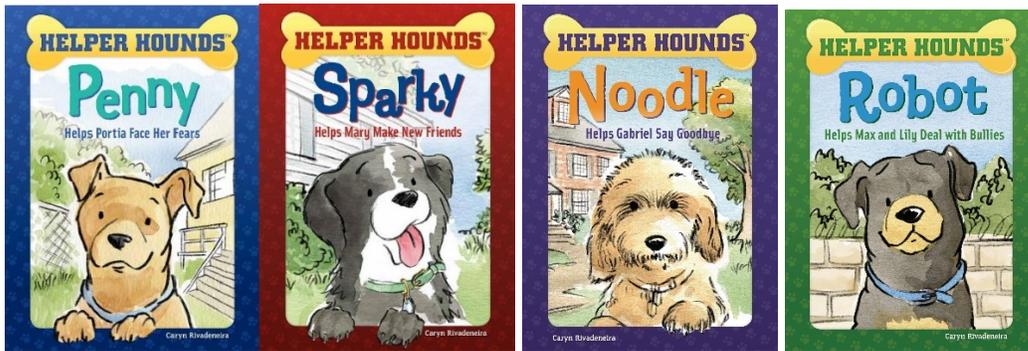
www.amynielander.com

HELPER HOUNDS

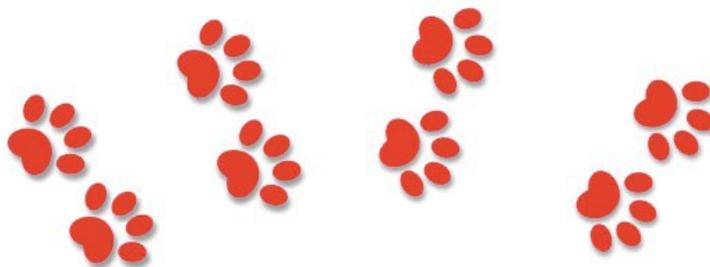
By Caryn Rivadeneira

Early Chapter Book Series – Publishing with Red Chair Press

Kirkus Review: “....the story, with an appropriate decoding level text for an early chapter book, should appeal to dog lovers and anyone who needs reassurances of their own. A doggone encouraging manual.



The first book in the **6-book series** about emotional support dogs publishes in 2020 Mary’s new in town. She’s worried about starting her new school. That’s why her mom called up the Helper Hounds—and why Sparkplug, the wildly handsome, wickedly smart, card- carrying, world famous Helper Hound is on the scene. Sparky knows a thing or two about moving. He moved four times before he was out of puppyhood—and learned to meet new friends along the way. Sparky knows he can teach Mary all his best tricks and help her settle down and meet new friends. At least, Sparky thought he could right up until he met Custard—Mary’s persnickety cat. Will Sparky’s best tricks be enough to win over Custard and show Mary making friends is a piece of cake? www.carynrivadeneira.com



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RICE FROM HEAVEN

The Secret Mission to Feed North Koreans

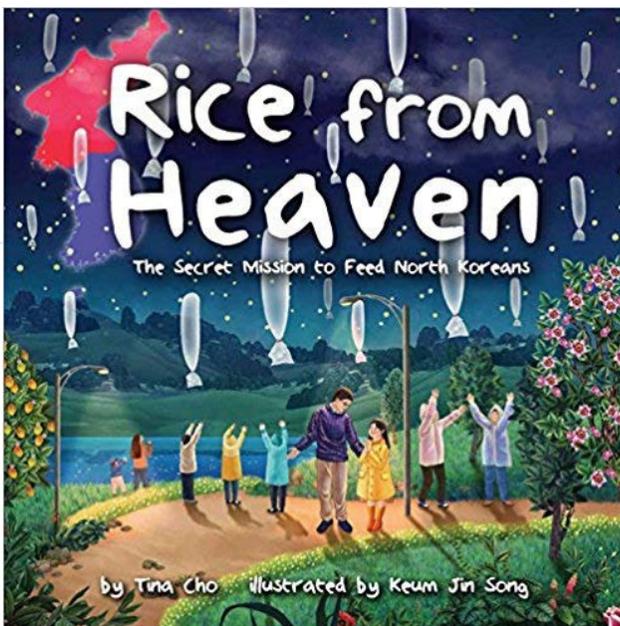
By Tina Cho

Little Bee Books (Bonnier) August 2018

Winner of the 2019-2020 Morning Calm Medal

An Annual Book Award Selected by International School Students in Korea

**Starred Review from Foreword: North Korean refugees share this fascinating true story of a secret mission that launched hundreds of rice-filled balloons under the cover of rain and darkness across the border from South Korea to the starving families left behind. Beautiful, intricately detailed illustrations highlight the culture, customs, and landscape while gently educating children about the vastly different political climates and shared history of North and South Korea.*



RICE FROM HEAVEN tells the true story of a group of people in South Korea who meet together under the cloak of night to fill giant balloons full of rice and float them over the border into North Korea, with the hope that they will land in a neighborhood and provide food for impoverished North Koreans. This secret kindness mission faced opposition from local villagers who saw this mission as helping the enemy.

Yoori lives in South Korea and doesn't know what North Korea is like, but her father (Appa) does. Appa grew up in North Korea, where he did not have enough food to eat. Starving, he fled to South Korea in search of a better life. Ooori doesn't know how she can help as she's only a little "grain of rice" herself, but Appa tells her that they can secretly help the starving people by sending over special

Balloons that carry rice over the border.

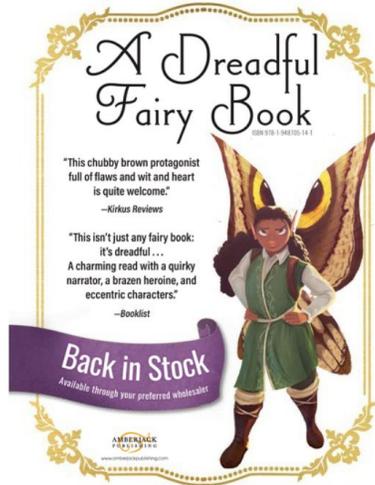
Villagers glare and grumble, and children protest feeding the enemy, but Yoori doesn't back down. She Has to help. People right over the border don't have food. No rice, and no green fields. With renewed spirit, volunteers gather in groups, fill the balloons with air, and tie the Styrofoam containers filled with rice to the tails of the balloons. With a little push, the balloons soar up and over the border, carrying rice into the darkness of the night over to North Korea.

RICE FROM HEAVEN explores important themes such as compassion, bravery, and pushing past a culture of xenophobia to embrace the oppressed. Tina Cho takes an overwhelming, challenging topic and offers the simple reminder that being a Good Samaritan is often met with opposition.

Tina Cho is an American teacher currently living and working in South Korea who has been in Yoori's shoes. She has partnered with North Korean refugee organizations to send rice balloons over the border.

www.TinaMCho.com

<http://www.kidlit411.com/2018/08/Kidlit411-Author-Tina-Cho.html>



A DREADFUL FAIRY BOOK

By Jon Etter

Amberjack Publishing, November 2018

A DREADFUL FAIRY BOOK is the first in a middle grade fantasy series centered around a chubby fairy named Shade who is not very cheerful and does not enjoy flying. The first book in the series, *A Dreadful Fairy Book*, follows Shade as she sets out on a quest to find an elusive library and is joined by two eccentric comrades who help her overcome the obstacles on her path. This story, as with the others, is reluctantly narrated by Mr. Quentin Q. Quacksworth who bemoans this narrating assignment, much to the delight of the reader. Shade's journey takes her from the Merry Forest, the only home she has ever known, on a wild adventure where she overcomes obstacles, meets a charming cast of characters, and keeps her eyes fixed on the prize: finding the great library.

Three books in the *THOSE DREADFUL FAIRY BOOKS* series have been acquired and will be published through Amberjack Publishing.

Another Dreadful Fairy Book (Book 2)



It's been six months since Shade settled into a pleasant life working and living in the magical Grand Library of Elfame, but now that life is in jeopardy. A fearsome bugbear (with a bug lodged firmly up his backside it seems) named Norwell Drabbury, the Grand Scrutinizer for the Ministry of Ordinariness, Averageness, and Normalcy (M.O.A.N.), has decided that the Grand Library is a threat to the peace, stability, and moral climate of Elfame and demands sweeping changes, including a mass removal of books he deems "damaging to the moral climate of the land," or its immediate closure.

Shade, unfortunately, has little time to deal with that when she discovers that her late father belonged to a secret society whose mission is to guard and someday restore to the world a trove of rare books, including one purported to have the power to bring down either or both of the ruling factions of Elfame: the Seelie Court and the Sluagh Horde. Taking up her father's mission, Shade, with fast-talking Ginch and the silent but resourceful Professor in tow, ventures forth to find and unite the other members of the secret society and bring books long hidden back to the world.

It becomes immediately apparent, however, that Shade isn't the only one looking for the long-lost books as the multitudinous henchmen of a sinister foe (could it be her nemesis Lady Perchta?) crop up at every turn. Shade's journey to the bucolic farm town of Cottinghamtownshireborough, the crime-riddled docks of Bilgewater, the dark and treacherous mines of the Hollow Hills, and the perilous north face of Mount Wyrd becomes a race against time that could shake Elfame to its very foundations.

A Dreadful Final Battle (Book 3)

Having saved the lives of the heirs-apparent to the thrones of both the Seelie Court and the Sluagh Horde at the end of *A Dreadful Secret Society* (and saving the Grand Library in the process), Shade is summoned to appear as the guest of both royal courts where she must face her toughest challenge yet: acting like a polite and respectful young lady. After a crash course in etiquette from everybody's favorite Gentletroll of Refinement, Shade makes her high society debut.

But grand balls, royal levees, and garden tea parties are not in the cards (much to Chauncey Q. Troggsallop's dismay), when the royal children are abducted. With their disappearances threatening to shatter the unsteady peace between the two royal courts, Shade, Ginch, and the Professor make a frantic search for the missing elven heirs and uncover an insidious plot to overthrow both royal families and drag the Seelie and Sluagh once more into bloody combat. Along the way, Shade makes a shocking discovery: her mother, long thought dead, is alive and in the clutches of the vengeful Lady Perchta.

Meanwhile, revelations about the true history of Elfame uncovered at the end of *Secret Society* have spread throughout the land, and a revolution is brewing amongst the common fairy folk. With royals and commoners alike all spoiling for a fight, it's up to Shade and her friends to prevent blood from being shed once again on the ancestral battleground of the Stormfield of Elfame in this final tale (for now at least) of *Those Dreadful Fairy Books*.

Mr. Jon Etter tweets at [@JonWriting](#) and updates his loyal readers at [JonEtter.com](#) and the reluctant narrator of this particular tale tweets at [@ReluctantNarrrr](#).

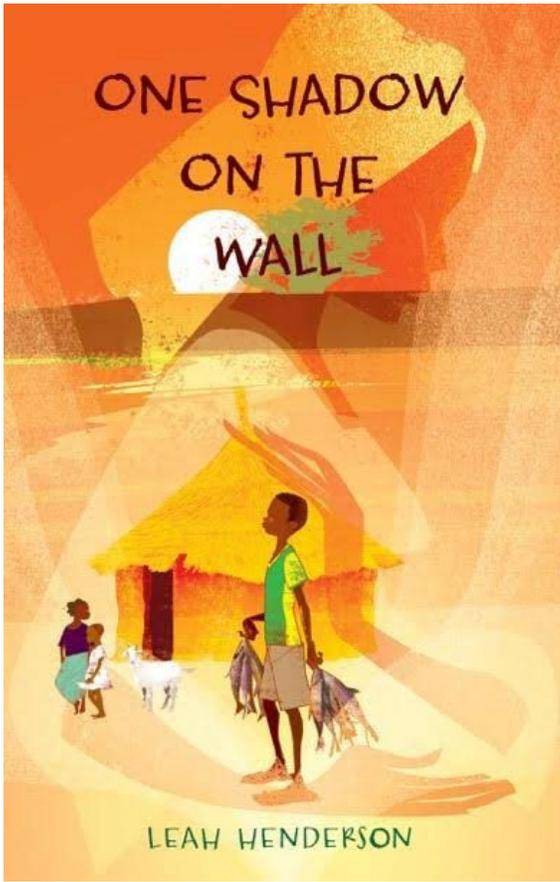
KIRKUS REVIEW

A bookish sprite sets off on a quest for a new home and finds far more than she bargains for in Etter's solo debut, a fantasy romp. When the not-so-bright sprites of Pleasant Hollow misguidedly burn down both Shade Glitterdemon's home and, more importantly, her library, Shade, in a very un-spritey burst of anger, storms off to find a new home, surrounded by books in a fabled place called a library. But outside of Pleasant Hollow, the realm is steeped in the tension of an uneasy truce between the warring good and evil fairies, and as Shade cautiously journeys to the only independent library that may have survived the last war, she encounters many fairy creatures who are just as out of place and dreadful at being proper fairies as she is. With an exasperated narrator who would much prefer a story whose fairies and plots behave the way they ought and with characters that not only question, but outright shatter the status quo to embrace difference, Etter offers readers a rich world of complexity and moral ambiguity as Shade navigates loss, betrayal, magic, and friendship in pursuit of the wonders of books and self-love. It's difficult to give Etter credit for diverse racial representation in a world of multihued nonhuman creatures; nevertheless, this chubby brown protagonist full of flaws and wit and heart is quite welcome. For bibliophiles (and bibliothecaphiles) and all those who step expectantly into mushroom rings. (Fantasy. 9-13)

ONE SHADOW ON THE WALL

A middle grade novel by Leah Henderson

Published by Atheneum, an imprint of Simon & Schuster June 6, 2017

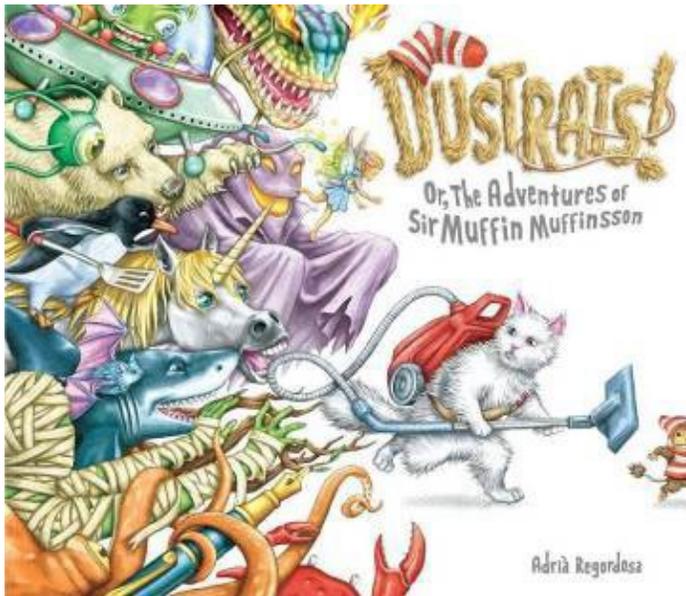


An orphaned boy in contemporary Senegal must decide between doing what is right and what is easy as he struggles to keep a promise he made to his dying father.

Eleven-year-old Mor was used to hearing his father's voice, even if no one else could since his father's death. It was comforting. It was also a reminder that Mor had made a promise to his father before he passed: *keep your sisters safe. Keep the family together.* But almost as soon as they are orphaned, that promise seems impossible to keep. With an aunt from the big city ready to separate him and his sisters as soon as she arrives, and a gang of boys from a nearby village wanting everything he has—including his spirit—Mor must find a way to fulfill his father's wish, overcome his doubts, and survive.

One Shadow on the Wall is about love and loss, family and friendship, and creating your own future—even if it's hard to do.

www.leahhendersonbooks.com



DUSTRATS!

Or, The Adventures of Sir Muffin Muffinsson

*Text and illustrations by Adrià Regordosa
POW! Kids/Random House, Spring 2017*

DUSTRATS! OR, THE ADVENTURES OF SIR MUFFIN MUFFINSON is a picture book that takes place in a dreamy world where cat Sir Muffin Muffinsson is charged with the important duties of protecting Baby Emma while she sleeps and keeping their room clean.

Sir Muffin proves to be not-so-good at the cleaning part and naughty, mischievous creatures called Dustrats escape from underneath Emma's crib and run amok through the house.

It is up to Sir Muffin to strap on his vacuum cleaner armor and chase the little cretins through the different rooms of the house—which have curiously transformed with the Dustrats' presence.

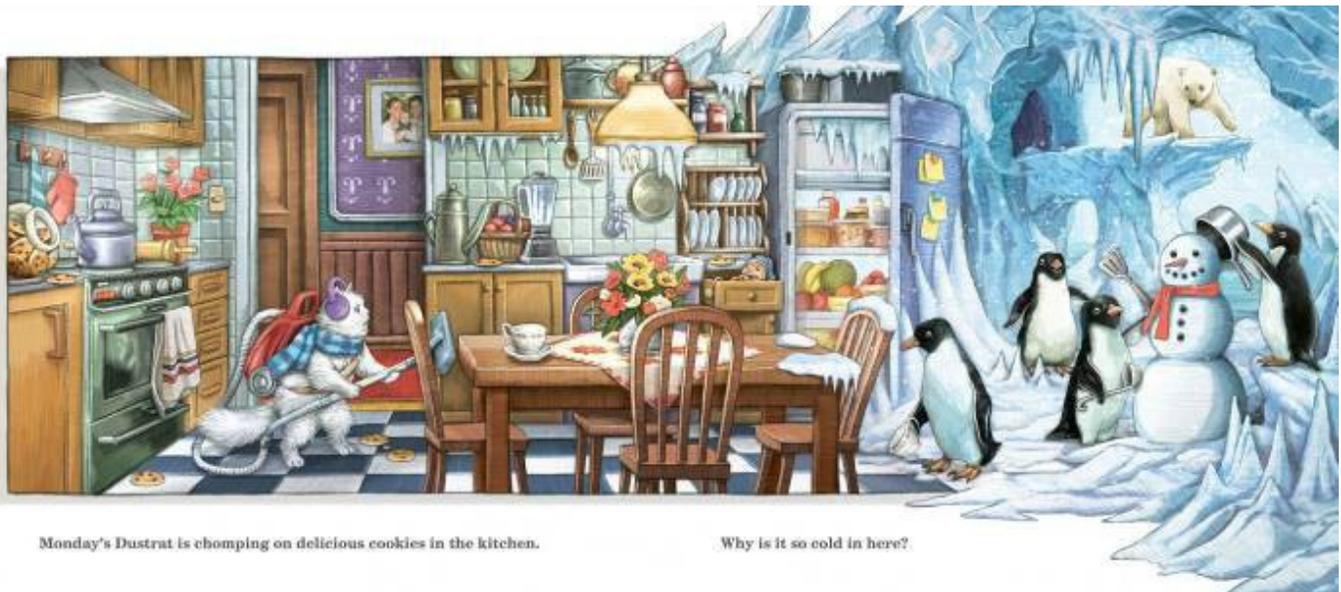
When Sir Muffin is gone too long, Baby Emma faces danger and he must do everything he can to protect her—even it means turning to some unlikely allies for help. Underlying this imaginative story is the question—is this all taking place in Emma's dreams?

DUSTRATS is a high-concept, delightfully fantastical adventure that would translate beautifully into animation.

Adrià Regordosa is a native of Spain, but currently lives in Sweden. He has had a successful career as a graphic artist, particularly in the video game industry.

For more about Adrià, see www.adriaregordosa.com.

<https://cleiagore.com/2017/05/19/welcome-to-the-world-dustrats/>

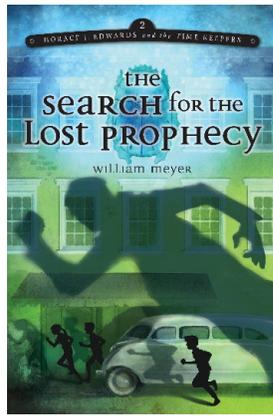
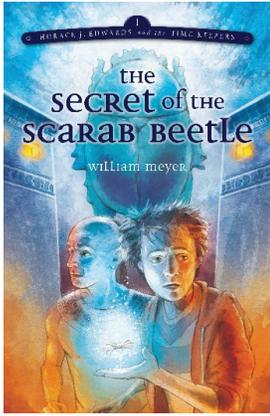


Monday's Dustrat is chomping on delicious cookies in the kitchen.

Why is it so cold in here?

HORACE J. EDWARDS AND THE TIME KEEPERS SERIES

By William Meyer
Sleeping Bear Press



The **Horace j. Edwards and the Time Keepers** series is a middle grade time travel adventure series by William Meyer. The series features a group of kids led by 11-year-old Horace as they leap back and forth from ancient and not-so-ancient lands (Egypt, Rome, medieval France, 1920s Detroit) to present day Detroit and Niles, Michigan. The four-part adventure culminates when Horace helps the modern-day ailing city of Detroit rise by uncovering its wild (and totally true!) connections to the past. It's a tween time travel *Da Vinci Code* and *National Treasure*-esque adventure!

In the first book, *The Secret of the Scarab Beetle*, Horace is an ordinary boy whose family has just moved to Niles, Michigan. But on the first day of sixth grade, mysterious things start to happen. His grandfather dies, and Horace receives a strange gift--a stone scarab beetle. As he works to uncover the secrets surrounding his grandfather's death and the beetle, Horace is transported back in time to the ancient Egyptian city of Amarna. He meets the future pharaoh, young King Tut, and together the two boys become engaged in a fight to save the city from total destruction and Egypt itself from Tut's evil uncle Smenk. In the process, Horace discovers that he is the heir to an order of guardians, known as the Keepers of Time. *The Secret of the Scarab Beetle* is the first book in the middle-grade fantasy series *Horace j. Edwards and the Time Keepers*.

In Horace's second adventure, *The Search for the Lost Prophecy*, Horace continues to search for more information about the Time Keepers and his role in this secret order. After he discovers that the tree portal at his grandparents' farm is destroyed, Horace, along with his friends Anna and Milton, travels back in time to 1920s Detroit, hoping to learn more. There they meet keeper Herman at the Scarab Club and learn that someone is threatening the Time Keepers and the order's mission. Horace finds out that the mystical Benben Stone is being stored in a crypt back in present-day Niles, Michigan. And Horace is now tasked with keeping the sacred stone safe. Will the person or persons threatening the Order learn of Horace's true identity?

One of the things that make this series so engaging is all the crazy historical connections that have been meticulously researched by William Meyer, who was born and raised in the Detroit suburbs. Meyer is a high school history teacher in Bronxville, New York, who holds a B.A. in history from Dartmouth, an M.A. in education from Harvard, and is currently working on his PhD in the History of Education at NYU. In his research of the once booming metropolis of Detroit, Meyer discovered a vast array of strange coincidences connecting the city's founders with some of Egypt's greatest mysteries, which inspired many details of the series.

Media:

WXYZ-TV Detroit: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2ONf_MAN710

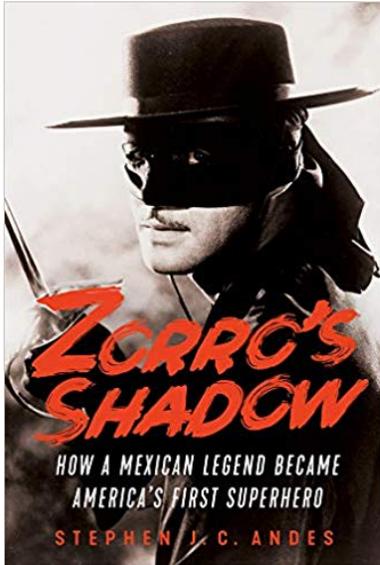
Harvard ED Magazine: <https://www.gse.harvard.edu/news/ed/17/01/its-ancient-history>

Unscripted Docs/Reality

Zorro's Shadow: How a Mexican Legend Became America's First Superhero

By Stephen J. C. Andes

Pop Culture Narrative Non-fiction — Chicago Review Press, Fall 2020



Long before Superman or Batman made their first appearances, there was Zorro. Born on the pages of the pulps one hundred years ago in 1919, Zorro fenced his way through the American popular imagination, carving his signature letter “Z” into the flesh of evildoers in Old Spanish California. Zorro is the original caped crusader, the first hero to have a band called the Avengers, and the character who laid the blueprint for the modern American superhero: the mask, the alter-ego, extraordinary physical skills, and a struggle against arch-villains. Famed comics pioneer Bob Kane even wrote that “Zorro was a major influence on my creation of Batman.”

In *Zorro's Ghost*, Historian and Latin American Studies expert Stephen J. C. Andes investigates the legends behind the mask of Zorro, revealing that the origin of America's first superhero lies in Latinx history and experience.

Andes begins his investigation in Mexico City at a statue of William Lamport (1611-1659), the so-called “Irish Zorro,” who was burned at the stake by the Mexican Inquisition. There, he discovers new documents at the Mexican National Archives and travels to the Sonoran desert to find the birthplace of Joaquín Murrieta (1830-1853), a California Gold Rush bandit who many claim inspired the creation of Zorro. Based on the never-before-seen letters of Zorro creator Johnston McCulley (1883-1958), Andes describes how the legends around Lamport and Murrieta influenced the development of the masked hero in black, and further, how Zorro went from a real-life Mexican *bandido* to a distinctly white, aristocratic hero.

Revealing the length of Zorro's shadow on the superhero genre is a reclamation of the legend of Zorro for a multiethnic and multicultural America. An enthralling true detective story and a work of cultural criticism, Andes unmask the origins of the American superhero, revealing its foundations in American diversity.

Stephen J. C. Andes received his doctorate in Mexican History from Oxford University and is considered an expert in the field and was even one of the first scholars to be granted access to the Vatican's Secret Archives while researching the Mexican Revolution. He was awarded the Latin American Studies Association's Best Dissertation Prize and is now a history professor at Louisiana State University.

www.ZorrosGhost.com

PHILANTHROPARTIES

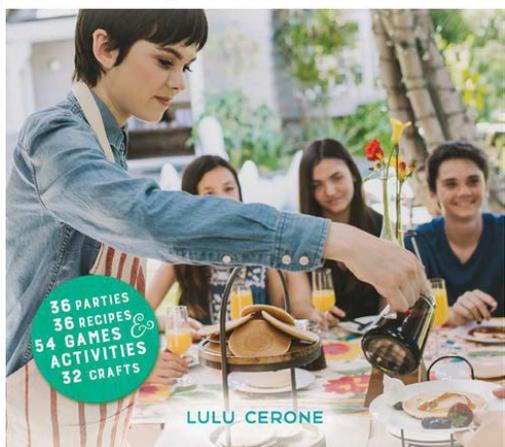
A Party Planning Guide for Kids Who Want to Give Back

By Lulu Cerone

Aladdin/Beyond Words (S&S)

Unscripted Available

***Starred review from Booklist-** “...gorgeous, well organized, full-color book, which is brimming with ideas to inspire young philanthropists to be of service.”



18-year-old social activist Lulu Cerone has developed an incredible platform with a simple mission: Help kids make social activism part of their everyday social lives. Through her website, television appearances, speaking engagements, social media presence, corporate partnerships with major brands like Forever 21, Pottery Barn Teen and Mattel, and awards, including a [2014 Nickelodeon HALO award](#), which she received during a nationally televised awards shows in November 2014, Lulu has spread the word about [her PhilanthroParties –“parties with a purpose.”](#) Now, with **PhilanthroParties! A Party Planning Guide for the Social Activist**, Lulu has taken her action-plans, inspiration, tips, and turned them into a comprehensive DIY book. **PhilanthroParties!** serves as a creative DIY guide for kids and parents who are interested in throwing Parties with a Purpose, like a Sweater Weather Holiday party where guests bring gently used sweaters to donate to shelters, or a beach picnic that includes a trash scavenger hunt to clean up the shorelines. It will also serve as inspiration for a way of life. Author and narrator Lulu Cerone’s positivity, generosity, and initiative are contagious, and are representative of a young generation that is empowered by what they can do to change the world.

Lulu was inspired to create the PhilanthroParties concept when she was only 10 after she was so affected by the plight of the people of Haiti after a major earthquake hit the country in 2010. Lulu set up a boys v. girls lemonade war between her classmates to raise money for earthquake victims. It was a big success—and social highlight of the year! Lulu realized how a simple idea could lead to something really big. It was obvious that kids her age wanted to give back—but they wanted to initiate that change themselves. The biggest obstacle for kids and parents was finding the time and opportunity to fit social activism into their busy lives. So, Lulu created a solution: PhilanthroParties. PhilanthroParties could turn any event that was already on the calendar, like a birthday or holiday or a Friday night sleepover, into a *Party with a Purpose*.

Lulu founded the organization, [LemonAID Warriors](#) to share her progress, parties and creative action plans to help others throw PhilanthroParties of their own and make a difference. In the last six years, Lulu’s cool personal style, charming personality, and fun DIY activities have established her as the Tavi Gevenson of social activism that has attracted the attention of national and local news outlets, the United Nations, Nickelodeon, Walmart, Mattel and DoSomething.org. For more about Lulu, see www.lemonaidwarriors.com and her Instagram account [@lulucerone](#).

Review: <https://www.kirkusreviews.com/book-reviews/lulu-cerone/philanthroparties/> Reality Deck available upon request. See video at: <http://tinyurl.com/yaz5g5x9>

THE GREEN REAPER:

Life in a One-Woman Mortuary in Boring, Oregon

By Elizabeth Fournier

* All cast rights secured. Deck and Sizzle Reel available.



Elizabeth spent a lot of time in funeral homes as a kid, not because her family was in the business, but because they were so frequently found in caskets. Her mother died when she was young; so did her grandparents. Elizabeth began to read about different cultures' death rituals in *National Geographic* magazine. She held a mock cemetery on her dresser, and when friends' pets died, she would perform the funeral.

Elizabeth stood out at her tiny suburban Catholic school and knew it. After her mother's death and the loss of her fond attentions, Elizabeth performed dance routines for anyone she could press into watching. Her family's garage was the scene of many an elaborate recital. The dancing put joy back in her life but did nothing to assuage her sense of wrongness. Grief had hurt Elizabeth in ways she couldn't put into words. Elizabeth felt starved for reassurance, and without it, an inner voice began to chant that she was pathetic. She wanted to crawl into a tire swing and die.

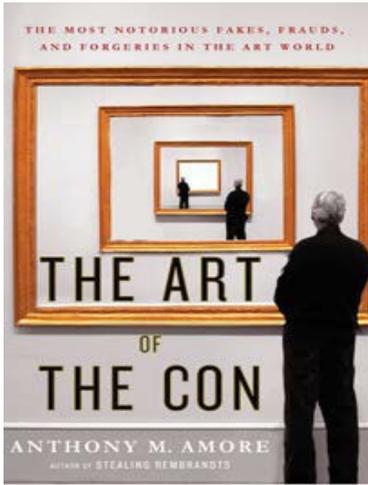
Elizabeth realized her life calling when she was offered the chance to be a live-in night keeper at a funeral home on a big hill. For Elizabeth, it was a casting call from Hollywood. She took the job and slept in a trailer on the spooky edge of the cemetery, with a shotgun under her bed. It was the scariest summer of her life, but it set things in motion. Elizabeth continued learning the ropes in the funeral world while living in the San Francisco Bay area, but her biological clock was ticking louder by the month while her dating life stalled at Dysfunction Junction. A move back to Oregon proved fruitful; in a mortuary version of romance, she found her husband after descending into the bowels of the corporate funeral home where they both were employed. (He worked there as a cremator). They soon married and together broke free from the corporate funeral home world and headed off to tiny Boring, Oregon, to make a fledging country funeral home their own. Daughter, Sofia (named after the Catholic Patron Saint of Widows) arrived the following year and Elizabeth brought her to the parlor every day. Sofia soon taught her that by lying in a grief-stricken widow's arms for a moment, and she could help the tension ease a bit. The baby held a natural gift of comforting the bereaved.

At the start of Elizabeth's career, it was truly an anomaly to walk into a funeral home and be greeted by a woman. Now Elizabeth runs a one-woman funeral service in the small town of Boring, a semi-rural community just outside of Portland. Elizabeth is the owner and operator of Cornerstone Funeral Services, the first green funeral home in the Portland Metropolitan area. She works as a green mortician and eco-educator and is affectionately known as the Green Reaper because of her passion of home funerals and natural burials. Elizabeth is always ready to lend a hand (or a shovel) and she is renowned for burying her townsfolk in their backyards.

Her story weaves anecdotes linked by her "Green Reaper" philosophy of eschewing big profits and instead returning to old-school burial practices that are far kinder to humans and the Earth. Elizabeth is inherently led toward helping others relate to death through taking care of their dead, and to preparing more meaningful burials. Through these experiences, she continues to reach more of her own healing and to reestablish inner connections. Some of us work for a better life; Elizabeth works for a better death.

www.ElizabethFournier.com

www.cornerstonefuneral.com



THE ART OF THE CON

By Anthony M. Amore

St. Martin's Press

* 12-part Limited Series Proposal Available

Art collectors simply want to believe. *They want to believe very badly.*

Hermann Goering's eyes opened wide when he saw Johannes Vermeer's *The Woman Taken in Adultery*. With only 35 or 36 known paintings attributed to the great Dutch master (scholars will probably argue over the actual number forever), a "new" Vermeer would be a crowning addition to his growing, awe-inspiring, and completely ill-gotten art collection. Even that failed artist Adolph Hitler himself, who at the time was building his *Fuhrermuseum* in which he would display the greatest art collection he could steal and loot, hadn't scored such a coup as a heretofore unknown Vermeer. Never mind the fact that *The Woman Taken in Adultery* didn't look at all like the work of Vermeer.

Goering had to have it and traded 200 looted paintings to the person in possession of this "missing Vermeer," mediocre artist Han van Meegeren. Later, with the war over and facing execution, van Meegeren admitted that he had forged the alleged Vermeer and proved so by painting another in the courtroom. Goering, facing his own trial in Nuremberg, was informed of the forgery, but steadfastly refused to believe it. Art fraud has been a consistent scam used by con artists throughout the decades.

And even today, armed with the advances in methods used to unmask fakes and the knowledge of the widespread problem of art forgery, dupes continue to line up to buy bogus "masterpieces." The news continues in the headlines with the breaking news recently that Glafira Rosales had sold 63 Modernist fakes for an estimated \$80 million, with her own personal take a cool \$33 million. All that for paintings put on canvas by a Chinese immigrant who, having failed at his own attempt at art superstardom in the United States, worked for Rosales out of the garage of his home in Queens, often putting his forgeries out in the driveway to dry out in the sun. And just last year, authorities in Germany broke up a Russian forgery gang they say sold more than 400 forgeries by artists including Kandinsky, Goncharova, and von Jawlensky.

Art scams are today so numerous that the specter of a lawsuit arising from a mistaken attribution has scared a number of experts away from the business of authentication, and with good reason. Art scams are increasingly convincing and involve incredible sums of money. The cons perpetrated by unscrupulous art dealers and their accomplices are proportionately elaborate. From these stories comes the reality show, *The Art of the Con*.

The Art of the Con will tell the stories of some of history's most notorious yet untold cons. They involve stolen art hidden for decades; elaborate ruses that involve the Nazis and allegedly plundered art; the theft of a conceptual prototype from a well-known artist by his assistant to be used later to create copies; the use of online and television auction sites to scam buyers out of millions; and other confidence scams incredible not only for their boldness but more so because they actually worked. *The Art of the Con* will also take the viewer into the investigations that led to the capture of the con men, who oftentimes return back to the world of fakes, frauds, and forgeries in the art world.

For some, it's an irresistible urge because their innocent dupes all share something in common: They want to believe.

For more about Anthony, see www.AnthonyAmore.com

FAITH BASED



FINDING HOME

The Story of a Birth Quest Born Out of Deception

By Jane Blasio

Revell/Baker Books, 2021

Click link to watch trailer: www.youtube.com/watch?v=ESyhEzX7WNo

The sobering term “baby seller” was etched into Jane Blasio’s mind from the moment she began her search for her birth family, dreaming of finding where she belonged, and to whom. Who was this man who sold her? She knew her adoptive parents paid \$1000 for her. The answer lay there.

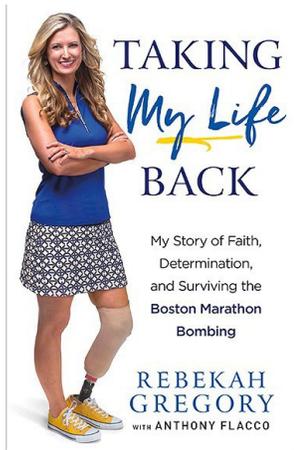
After searching for over fourteen years, Jane approached a local newspaper to get the word out to anyone born at the Hicks Clinic in McCaysville, Georgia. She knew it was a baby selling op for Doc Hicks from all of the stories she had heard, but she hoped the search for her birth family would go faster with some of the others involved. But her heart nearly stopped when she found out over 200 babies were sold at the clinic. She knew then what she had to do.

The morning of Mothers’ Day, 1997 was when the story hit the front page of the paper and then the AP wire. All hell broke loose in Jane’s life while the word spread. The calls and letters barraged to the tune of 300+ a day in a pre-internet frenzy, asking questions and throwing information at her, hoping to connect their truth to hers. Some McCaysville town folk felt a need to call and defend the town and the good doctor, just like they had fought to keep the secrets 20+ years ago when Jane slipped into town to ask questions. They warned her outsiders shouldn’t be around after dark. Just under fifty adults who came through the Hicks Clinic as babies came forward when the article was published. Soon after, a number of them found themselves sitting on the couch in Jane’s living room with birth certificate in hand. Some cried and asked questions, others were just quiet and stared out the window while Jane shared what she had uncovered. All of them had been lied to their entire lives. A DNA registry was set up. Reunions began between the Hicks Babies and birth families.

A few months into the calls and the media circus, Jane’s phone rang and a soft, southern voice on the other end quietly told her of a woman named Kitty, who as a young teen, lost two babies to the Hicks Clinic. Kitty was living in an old yellow school bus with her husband and infant son when Carlynn first met her, faded curtains hung at deliberate points across the bus to gain some privacy. The bus was actually a step up from the past dwellings. They moved into it after her husband, James, burned down their last shack because he was mad that she had smiled at the postman. Carlynn noted how the very young woman’s beauty and vibrance was already dulled by the ugliness of abuse and neglect. Soon she and Jane developed a friendship and welcomed Jane into their home, just as they had the young, battered wife two decades before. It was as though Jane had finally found her mother in Kitty. However, they would never meet. Kitty was killed in a car accident ten years before Jane exposed Dr. Hicks. However, Jane found it easy to settle as Kitty’s daughter, after scrutinizing the details of Kitty’s life and remnants of her family. And that’s who Jane was for seventeen years, in what she thought was the final filling in of the blanks of her story. She truly believed Kitty was her long lost mother. The soft voice at the other end of the phone line and the friendship with Carlynn which ensued for all those years with stories of Kitty, was enough for her.

Twenty years later, with significant advances in DNA and an uptick in genealogy databases, Jane wanted to find the brother Kitty had given up and what was left of Kitty’s other family. A simple sample of saliva was sent off to a lab and the results revealed soon after. Jane learned she was not Kitty’s daughter, after all. The story binding Kitty to Jane was shattered, blindsiding her. Her mind raced to wrap around what the DNA revealed. Two distinct trails, two first cousins to follow and neither line included Kitty. Everything solid and sure was blown away in one second, everything fought for, gone in an instant. She felt knocked to her knees, grieving that she’d been here before. It took all her strength to push through the haunting sense of having wasted so much time, nevertheless the search began again.

Today, Jane continues to assist those who are still bound to the Hicks Clinic and looking for answers. Join her on this part-investigation, part-spiritual quest for restoration, as she recounts the rough and painful journey and how it was worth every moment on the long voyage finding home. For more see: www.JaneBlasio.com



TAKING MY LIFE BACK:

My Story of Faith, Determination, and Surviving the Boston Marathon Bombing

By Rebekah Gregory

Revell/Baker Publishing April 4, 2017

"It is impossible to remain unmoved by Gregory's emotional, open memoir of surviving the Boston Marathon bombing in 2013. This is a truly feel-good book that doesn't stint on the challenges that life throws at us."

**--Publishers Weekly, starred review*

Ripped from news headlines around the world, Rebekah Gregory's book Taking My Life Back is the riveting story of a survivor of the Boston Marathon terrorist attack. It's transparent. It's compelling. It's hopeful. But Rebekah is not only a survivor, She's an overcomer! And she has the scars on the inside and outside to show for her journey to a new normal. Taking My Life Back is a rollercoaster triumph of faith over, depression, defeat and evil. -Don Piper, 90 Minutes in Heaven

Rebekah Gregory, 29, survived the Boston Marathon bombing of 2013 along with her son Noah, now 8, and then-boyfriend Pete DiMartino. The three were at the finish line, waiting for DiMartino's mom to cross, when the explosions happened.

Months of physical therapy – not to mention emotional healing – followed for all three, and Gregory was ultimately fitted with a prosthetic leg.

This is a faith-based story, and much of it follows the feelings of emotional isolation and occasional spiritual panic. She wrestles with the traumatic life events and insults to her existence that keep her from sensing her connection to God. She experiences a terrible inner aloneness which she can hide from most other people, but it constantly torments her.

The goal of her story is to help troubled people pull back from the edge of despair. "If I've learned one lesson, it's that each of the hardest chapters in your life brings you to the most beautiful ones of all. You just have to keep going long enough to get there." The thoughts she offers in her book and her speaking engagements provide an avenue to hope.

She is now happily married to Chris Varney, and although new daughter Ryleigh arrived in a very premature delivery, their little girl is now healthy and living at home.

Gregory received Boston City permission to run the final mile of the 2015 Boston Marathon on her brand-new artificial leg. She made it to the finish line, but admits she still has PTSD and ongoing difficulties with her injured leg.

Her message is especially strong with those who are struggling with despair. "There's nothing I wouldn't give to go back to life before I ever went to the Boston Marathon, but I can't," she shares. "What I can do is appreciate every new moment I'm given. If I have that ability when I wake up every day, what more could I ask for? I just want to be a mom that one day my kids will be proud of." www.RebekahMGregory.com

In 2018, Rebekah founded the nonprofit REBEKAH'S ANGELS, a 501C-3 designed to provide help and support for children suffering from PTSD. www.RebekahsAngels.org

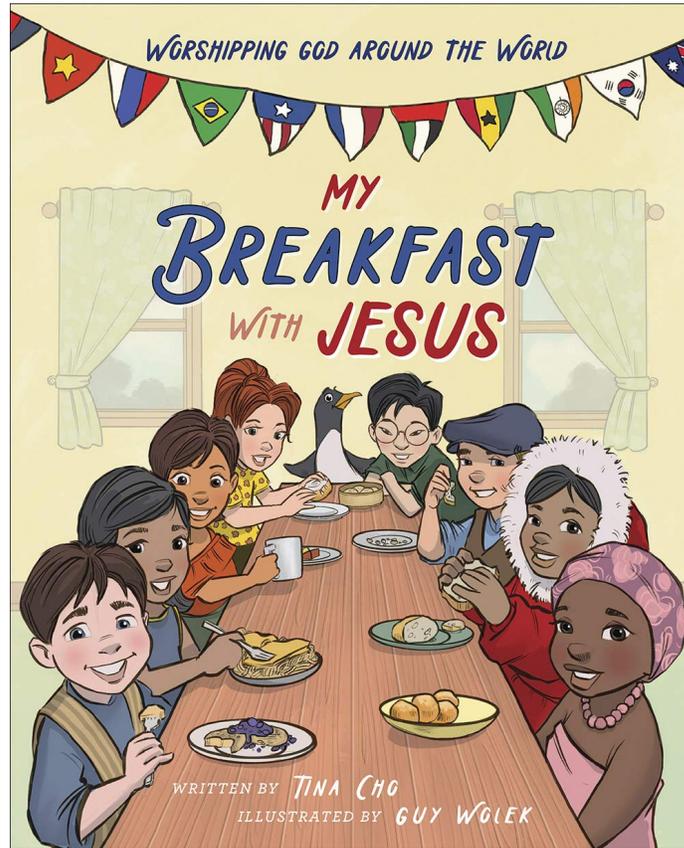


Watch this 4/12/19 video of Rebekah talking about the foundation here: <http://tinyurl.com/y3borrmv>

MY BREAKFAST WITH JESUS

Written by Tina Cho

Picture Book – Publishing with Harvest House Kids June 2, 2020

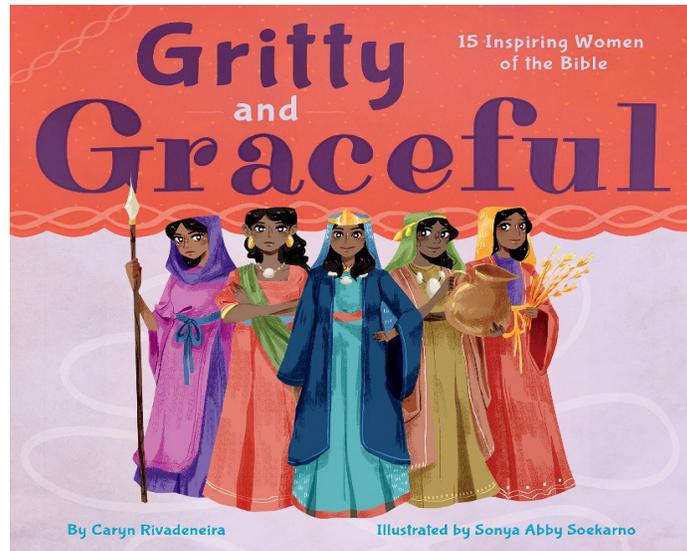


This engaging, inclusive book will be a welcome addition to shelves in Christian homes or church libraries."
—Kirkus Reviews

For more than 2,000 years, people have started their day with a delicious meal in their bellies and the love of Jesus in their hearts. From bacon and eggs in the heart of North America to fresh baked bread in Antarctica, believers from each continent gather in the morning to share good food and conversation, giving thanks to God for all the wonderful things He's done.

Inspired by the events found in John 21 where Jesus feeds his disciples, *My Breakfast with Jesus* celebrates breakfast traditions from around the world. Your child will see people from all ethnicities following Jesus's model of service: loving others by meeting their physical and spiritual needs.

This lovingly written and beautifully illustrated book will help your child make the connection between faith, food, and fellowship. www.TinaMCho.com



GRITTY AND GRACEFUL:

15 Inspiring Women of the Bible

**Written by Caryn Rivadeneira
Illustrated by Sonya Abby Soekarno**

Picture book (Christian market) –Beaming Books, 2019

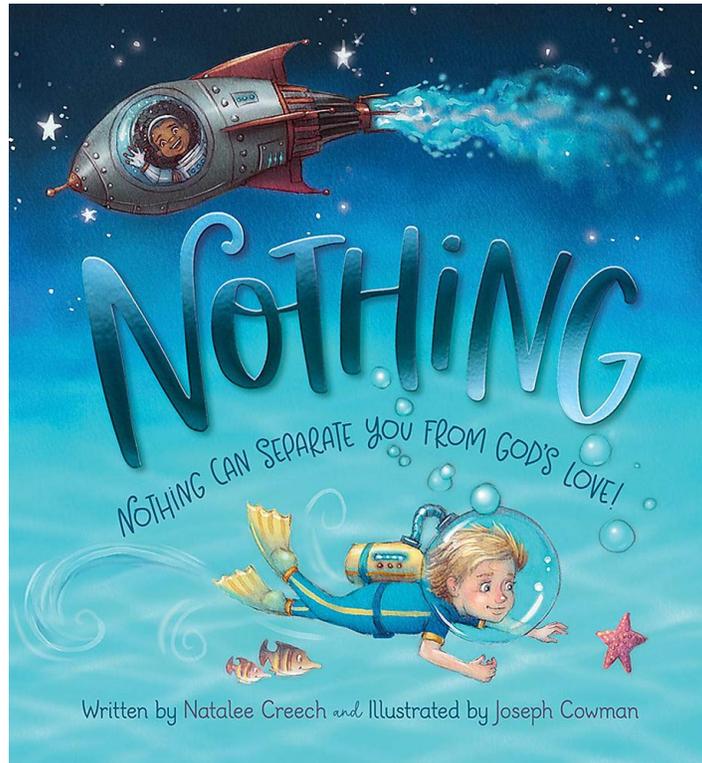
God gave girls grit and grace. From the very beginning, God looked to girls and women to teach, to lead, to love, to change the world.

We know because we can read their stories in the Bible. From Eve to Mary and everyone in between, the Bible is full of gritty and graceful women who faced tough circumstances with courage, toughness, intelligence, and faith.

This companion to Caryn Rivadeneira's critically acclaimed *Grit and Grace: Heroic Women of the Bible* combines exciting storytelling with the vivid illustrations of Sonya Abby Soekarno to bring the stories of these biblical women to life. *Gritty and Graceful: 15 Inspiring Women of the Bible* will inspire the gritty and graceful girls in your life to imagine their place in God's story, how they can make a difference in the world, and do great things for God. www.carynrivadeneira.com

NOTHING

Nothing Can Separate you From God's Love



Written by Natalee Creech, illustrated by Joseph Cowman
Picture book (Christian market) – Worthy Kids, 2019

Nominated for a 2020 Christian Children's Book Awards

Can anything stop God's love and God's grace? This uplifting picture book joyfully explores the answer from Romans 8:38-39-nothing can separate us from God's love. Curious children wonder if God's love can be stopped by rumbling volcanoes, deep oceans, elaborate disguises, and personal shortcomings, and come to the comforting conclusion that "There is nothing so powerful, nothing so strong-God's love is too high and too deep and too long!" With whimsical rhyme and imaginative illustrations, this affirming book gives children confidence in God's unstoppable love.

www.NataleeCreech.com

SHADOW AMONG SHEAVES

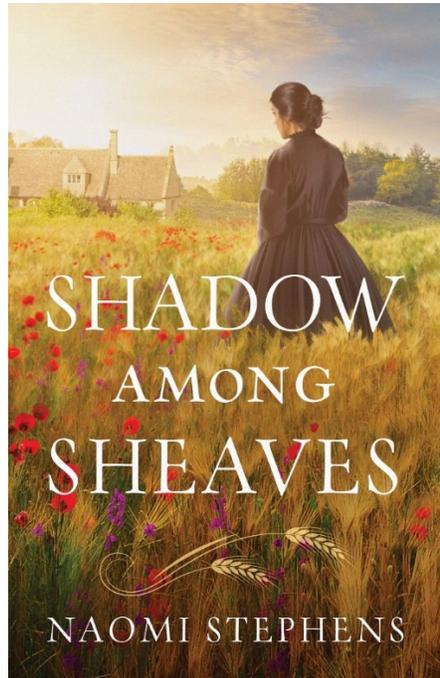
A Timeless, Beautiful Allegory of the Biblical Love Story of Ruth and Boaz

By Naomi Stephens

Christian Adult Fiction – Published with Barbour in 2019

Shortlisted for the 2020 INSPY Awards

Carol Award finalist



The Great Rebellion of 1857 was a remarkably bloody business. At a time when Britain’s imperial influence in India was sparking brutal clashes on both sides, no one could have expected Rena, an Indian woman, to marry a British officer—nor do they understand her decision to follow her mother-in-law to England after her husband’s tragic death. Once the two widows are in Abbotsville, the stern yet compassionate Lord Barric attempts to help them despite his better judgment. Soon he is torn between the demands of reputation and his increasing desire to capture Rena’s heart for his own. www.NaomiStephens.com