

---

# HARLEQUIN BOOK CLUB

ISSUE N° 1

---



 **HARLEQUIN®**  
TM

# START A CONVERSATION

Welcome to **The Harlequin Book Club**, a place where we invite readers to preview a curated list of, and conversation starters for, some of the books we are most excited about. Here's just a taste of what you'll find in our first edition: Turn up your '90s playlist and take a trip along the California coast in **Amy Mason Doan's** *Summer Hours*. Dive into **Mallory O'Meara's** real-life detective story, *The Lady from the Black Lagoon*, which uncovers the Hollywood history of artist Milicent Patrick, whose iconic movie monster work was credited to—and eradicated by—a jealous man. Fans of *The Rosie Project* and *Bridget Jones's Diary* will cheer for Susan Green, the heroine of **Sarah Haywood's** *The Cactus* (a Reese Witherspoon Book Club pick!) about one woman's unconventional journey to motherhood when she finds out that she's pregnant—at the age of 45. And take to the skies with the valiant women of **Noelle Salazar's** *Flight Girls*, inspired by the little-known Women's Airforce Service Pilots (WASP) program of World War II.

Whether you're hankering for nonfiction, thrillers, or historical fiction, we hope you'll find something in the Club that will give your book club something to talk about.

Warmly,

**Harlequin Books**



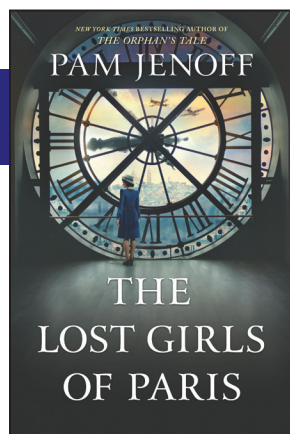
For readers of *The Orphan's Tale*,  
*The Alice Network* and *Lilac Girls*.

**PAM JENOFF**  
**The Lost Girls of Paris**

978-0-778-33027-1 | \$16.99 | Park Row Books | TPB

EB: 978-1-460-39876-0

DA: 978-1-488-20569-9 | AU: 978-1-488-25567-0



**ABOUT THE BOOK**

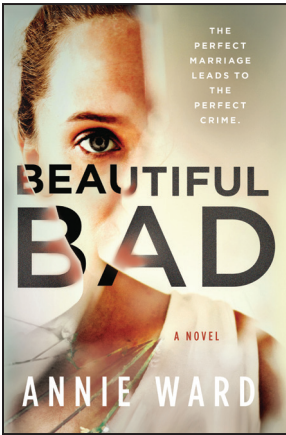
1946, Manhattan.

Grace Healy is rebuilding her life after losing her husband during the war. One morning while passing through Grand Central Terminal on her way to work, she finds an abandoned suitcase tucked beneath a bench. Unable to resist her own curiosity, Grace opens the suitcase, where she discovers a dozen photographs—each of a different woman. In a moment of impulse, Grace takes the photographs and quickly leaves the station.

Grace soon learns that the suitcase belonged to a woman named Eleanor Trigg, leader of a ring of female secret agents who were deployed out of London during the war. Twelve of these women were sent to Occupied Europe as couriers and radio operators to aid the resistance, but they never returned home—their fates a mystery. Setting out to learn the truth behind the women in the photographs, Grace finds herself drawn to a young mother-turned-agent named Marie, whose daring mission overseas reveals a remarkable story of friendship, valor and betrayal.

**DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

1. The title *The Lost Girls of Paris* refers to twelve female intelligence agents who disappeared while on their missions overseas. But the title has greater significance as well. In what ways are the three lead characters—Grace, Marie and Eleanor—lost, and how are they ultimately found?
2. The women in the novel defied common conventions about gender during the 1940s. How do you think the characters' experiences might have been different if they lived in today's world? In what ways might their experiences be similar?
3. Grace, Marie and Eleanor have very different backgrounds and come from very different worlds. But what are some commonalities between them and their stories? Which of the three women did you relate to most closely, and why?
4. War makes ordinary people do extraordinary things—whether it's going to great lengths to survive, or sacrificing one's own life to save others. What impacts does the war have on the characters in the book? How might the characters' lives have unfolded differently had the war not happened?
5. Each of the women in the book are put in a position of having to make a choice. Were there things you wished the women had done differently throughout the book, or did you agree with their decisions?



For readers of *The Wife Between Us*,  
*The Woman in the Window* and *The Widow*.

## ANNIE WARD **Beautiful Bad**

978-0-778-36910-3 | \$26.99 | Park Row Books | HC

EB: 978-1-488-09959-5

DA: 978-1-488-20582-8 | AU: 978-1-488-25580-9

### ABOUT THE BOOK

Maddie and Ian's love story began with a chance encounter at a party overseas; he was serving in the British army and she was a travel writer visiting her best friend, Jo. Now almost two decades later, married with a beautiful son, Charlie, they are living the perfect suburban life in Middle America. But when a camping accident leaves Maddie badly scarred, she begins attending writing therapy, where she gradually reveals her fears about Ian's PTSD; her concerns for the safety of their young son; and the couple's tangled and tumultuous past with Jo.

From the Balkans to England, Iraq to Manhattan, and finally to an ordinary family home in Kansas, sixteen years of love and fear, adventure and suspicion culminate in *The Day of the Killing*, when a frantic 911 call summons the police to the scene of a shocking crime.

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. In *Beautiful Bad*, it's not so clear-cut who can be trusted. Who is the villain and why?
2. *Beautiful Bad* takes you on a journey to Bulgaria, Macedonia, Croatia, Greece, Cyprus, Iraq, New York and Kansas. Which location did you enjoy reading about most and why? Did the book make you want to visit any of these locations?
3. More than one character suffers from PTSD. Who do you think is the most badly scarred? Do you think damaged people gravitate toward one another? Does PTSD and the behavior that can accompany it have anything to do with the obsessive attraction between Maddie, Ian and Joanna?
4. The writer has said she wanted to write about imperfect real people, at the risk of them being unlikable at times. In what ways are Maddie, Joanna and Ian deeply flawed, and what are their redeeming qualities?
5. If, like Maddie, you were asked to make a list of things that make you scared, what would be a few of your answers?



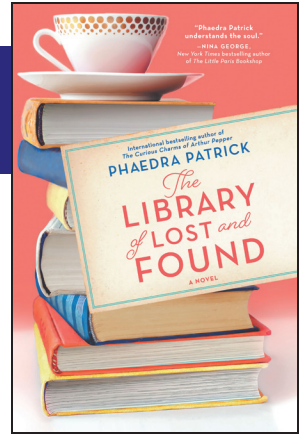
For readers of *Britt Marie Was Here*,  
*The Bookshop on the Corner* and  
*The Curious Charms of Arthur Pepper*.

## PHAEDRA PATRICK The Library of Lost and Found

978-0-778-36935-6 | \$24.99 | Park Row Books | HC

EB: 978-1-488-09543-6

DA: 978-1-488-20588-0 | AU: 978-1-488-25586-1



### ABOUT THE BOOK

Meet Martha Storm: a shy and lonely librarian who puts other people's needs before her own, taking notes in her Wonder Woman notebook of errands she agreed to do for others. Sometimes it feels as if the word No isn't in her vocabulary. Once upon a time, she had dreams of becoming a writer and moving away from her small town. But life didn't turn out quite like Martha had expected.

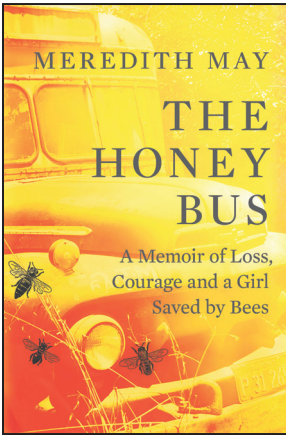
Then, one day, she receives a package: an old book of fairy tales with a dedication to Martha from her eccentric grandmother, Zelda, within its delicate pages.

But something isn't right—because the message is dated three years after Zelda supposedly died.

Martha had been devastated by her grandmother's sudden, mysterious death all those years ago. Zelda had been Martha's best friend and had helped shield her from the simmering tensions within the Storm family. Bewildered that Zelda might still be alive, Martha embarks on a journey to find out the truth—revealing a shocking family secret that will change Martha's life forever.

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Books and libraries are vitally important to Martha, throughout her childhood and also in the present day. What did books mean to you growing up and what do they mean to you now? What was your favorite book as a child?
2. Martha can't say "no" to other people. Do you also find it difficult to say "no"? Why is this the case? Would you like to change?
3. Betty had to make a terrible decision, to choose between her mother and husband. What toll would this have taken on her, in the years that followed? What might have happened if she'd made the opposite decision, to stand by Zelda instead of Thomas?
4. Should Martha have followed her fiancé, Joe, to America, or was it right for her to stay with her parents? Have you ever made a sacrifice for someone you love?
5. As sisters, Martha and Lilian are very different people. If you have a sibling or siblings, how do you differ from them? Do you get along?



For readers of *The Glass Castle*, *H is for Hawk* and *The Secret Life of Bees*.

## MEREDITH MAY

### The Honey Bus

978-0-778-30778-5 | \$24.99 | Park Row Books | HC

EB: 978-1-488-09545-0

DA: 978-1-488-20595-8 | AU: 978-1-488-25593-9

#### ABOUT THE BOOK

Meredith May was drawn to the art of beekeeping as an escape from her troubled reality. When she was five years old, her parents split, and suddenly she found herself in the care of her grandfather, an eccentric beekeeper who made honey in a rusty old military bus in the yard. Her mother receded into a volatile cycle of madness and despair and spent most days locked away in the bedroom. It was during this pivotal time in May's childhood that she learned to take care of herself, forged an unbreakable bond with her grandfather, and discovered that everything she needed to know about life and family was right before her eyes, in the secret world of bees.

The bees became a guiding force in May's life, teaching her about family and community, loyalty and survival, and the unequivocal relationship between a mother and her child. Part memoir, part beekeeping odyssey, *The Honey Bus* is an extraordinary story about finding home in the most unusual of places, and how a tiny, little understood insect could save a life.

#### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. *The Honey Bus* begins with a swarm-catching expedition gone wrong, and Grandpa has to rescue Meredith from stinging honeybees. Why do you think the book begins with this scene? How are the themes it sets up explored later in the story?
2. A major thread in *The Honey Bus* is the notion of biological versus chosen family. What kind of role do Grandpa and the bees play in Meredith's life, and how do they shape the person she becomes? Is there someone in your own life who had a similar impact on you?
3. Meredith's mother's mood sways between fragile and frantic. Grandpa, by contrast, is a soft-spoken Big Sur mountain man. How do these different personalities affect the way Meredith sees the world? How do they dictate the family dynamics?
4. One way Meredith clings to the memory of her father is by listening to The Beatles, even though the music makes her cry. Does this resonate with your sense of music and visceral memory? Do you have songs that transport you back in time or make you feel strong emotions?
5. May writes, "It is from the honeybee, a species that has been surviving for the last 100 million years, that I learned how to persevere." What does Meredith witness about honeybee behavior that informs her understanding of human nature and her own relationships? Has nature ever taught you something about yourself?

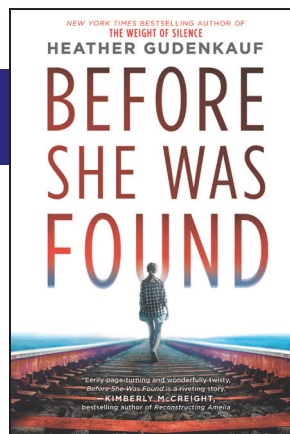
For readers of *Reconstructing Amelia*,  
*What She Knew* and *The Weight of Silence*.

## HEATHER GUDENKAUF *Before She Was Found*

978-0-778-30773-0 | \$16.99 | Park Row Books | TPB

EB: 978-1-488-09542-9

DA: 978-1-488-20599-6 | AU: 978-1-488-25597-7



### ABOUT THE BOOK

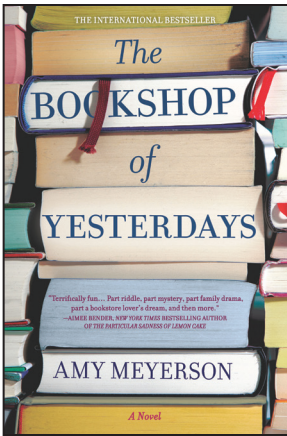
For twelve-year-old Cora Landry and her friends Violet and Jordyn, it was supposed to be an ordinary sleepover—movies and Ouija and talking about boys. But when they decide to sneak out to go to the abandoned rail yard on the outskirts of town, little do they know that their innocent games will have dangerous consequences.

Later that night, Cora Landry is discovered on the tracks, bloody and clinging to life, her friends nowhere to be found. Soon their small rural town is thrust into a maelstrom. Who would want to hurt a young girl like Cora—and why? In an investigation that leaves no stone unturned, everyone is a suspect and no one can be trusted—not even those closest to Cora.

*Before She Was Found* is a timely and gripping thriller about friendship and betrayal, about the power of social pressure and the price of needing to fit in. It is about the great lengths a parent will go to protect their child and keep them safe—even if that means burying the truth, no matter the cost.

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Cora, Violet and Jordyn are young girls with a turbulent friendship. Why do you think Cora keeps trying to remain friends with two people who don't seem to have her best interests in mind? What role do you think Cora plays in the friendship difficulties?
2. Childhood friendships can leave deep impressions, both good and bad. What childhood friendship impacted your life the most? Why?
3. Parents sometimes go to extreme lengths to protect their children. To what extent would you go to safeguard someone you love? Where would you draw the line?
4. Social media has become such an integral part of day-to-day life, even with children. What responsibility does social media like Facebook, Snapchat and others have in protecting youth? How about schools or government? And parents?
5. Several sorts of families are represented in the novel: Jordyn is being raised by her grandparents, Cora comes from a two-parent home and Violet is being raised by a single mother. How do you think the dynamics of each family played into the events of the novel?



For readers of *The Weird Sisters*,  
*The Storied Life of A. J. Fikry* and  
*The Little Paris Bookshop*.

## AMY MEERSON *The Bookshop of Yesterdays*

978-0-778-31984-9 | \$22.99 | Park Row Books | HC

EB: 978-1-488-07873-6

DA: 978-1-488-20475-3 | AU: 978-1-488-25475-8

### ABOUT THE BOOK

Miranda Brooks grew up in the stacks of her eccentric Uncle Billy's bookstore, solving the inventive scavenger hunts he created just for her. But on Miranda's twelfth birthday, Billy has a mysterious falling-out with her mother and suddenly disappears from Miranda's life. She doesn't hear from him again until sixteen years later when she receives unexpected news: Billy has died and left her Prospero Books, which is teetering on bankruptcy—and one final scavenger hunt.

When Miranda returns home to Los Angeles and to Prospero Books—now as its owner—she finds clues that Billy has hidden for her inside novels on the store's shelves, in locked drawers of his apartment upstairs, in the name of the store itself. Miranda becomes determined to save Prospero Books and to solve Billy's last scavenger hunt. She soon finds herself drawn into a journey where she meets people from Billy's past, people whose stories reveal a history that Miranda's mother has kept hidden—and the terrible secret that tore her family apart.

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Miranda learns some pretty shocking truths about her family. Were you surprised? What did you think Billy and Susan's secret was? When did you discover the truth? When do you think Miranda realized the truth?
2. Before Susan tells Miranda the truth of her past, Miranda realizes that no one else from Billy's journey knows why Billy and Susan fought. Why does Billy let Susan's version of their estrangement be the only version Miranda and the reader learn? How does Susan allow us to see the fight from both of their perspectives? Who do you sympathize with? Do you have any estrangements in your family?
3. What impression do you have of Evelyn? How does her untimely death affect the way people remember her?
4. The novel is full of literary references. Which clues are your favorites? Are there any books that you plan to read after reading this novel?
5. What do you think the fate of Prospero Books is at the end of the novel? What statement does the novel make about independent bookstores? Is there a bookstore that you love?



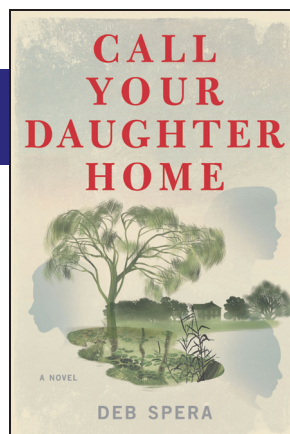
For readers of *Where the Crawdads Sing*, *The Kitchen House* and *The Twelve Tribes of Hattie*.

**DEB SPERA**  
**Call Your Daughter Home**

978-0-778-30774-7 | \$26.99 | Park Row Books | HC

EB: 978-1-488-09544-3

DA: 978-1-488-20555-2 | AU: 978-1-488-25556-4



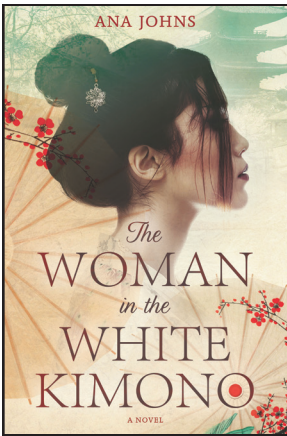
**ABOUT THE BOOK**

It's 1924 South Carolina and the region is still recovering from the infamous boll weevil infestation that devastated the land and the economy. Gertrude, a mother of four, must make an unconscionable decision to save her daughters from starvation or die at the hands of an abusive husband. Retta is navigating a harsh world as a first-generation freed slave, still employed by the Coles, influential plantation proprietors who once owned her family. Annie is the matriarch of the Coles family and must come to terms with the terrible truth that has ripped her family apart.

These three women seemingly have nothing in common, yet as they unite to stand up to the terrible injustices that have long plagued the small town, they find strength in the bond that ties women together. Told in the pitch-perfect voices of Gertrude, Retta and Annie, *Call Your Daughter Home* is an audacious, timeless story about the power of family, deep-buried secrets and the ferocity of motherhood.

**DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

1. *Call Your Daughter Home* is a historical novel but in what ways is it relevant to contemporary society? Are women treated differently now than they were then? If not, why? If so, how?
2. Gertrude, Retta and Annie have different ideas on faith. How does that affect the quality of their lives?
3. Retta has the gift of sight. Does Retta sense Odell's peril while he is absent from her? If so, can you detect when and how?
4. Which of the three principal female characters resonates most with you and why?
5. Invention (the telephone, the automobile, etc.) is talked about in the book as an "aha moment" of life. What other "aha moments" happen for each of the main characters?



For readers of *The Tea Girl of Hummingbird Lane*,  
*The Great Alone* and *The Girl Who Wrote in Silk*.

## ANA JOHNS

### The Woman in the White Kimono

978-0-778-30814-0 | \$26.99 | Park Row Books | HC

EB: 978-1-488-03513-5

DA: 978-1-488-20672-6 | AU: 978-1-488-25670-7

#### ABOUT THE BOOK

*Japan, 1957.* Seventeen-year-old Naoko Nakamura's prearranged marriage to the son of her father's business associate would secure her family's status in their traditional Japanese community, but Naoko has fallen for another man—an American sailor, a *gaijin*—and to marry him would bring great shame upon her entire family. When it's learned Naoko carries the sailor's child, she's cast out in disgrace and forced to make unimaginable choices with consequences that will ripple across generations.

*America, present day.* Tori Kovac, caring for her dying father, finds a letter containing a shocking revelation. Setting out to learn the truth behind the letter, Tori's journey leads her halfway around the world to a remote seaside village in Japan, where she must confront the demons of the past to pave a way for redemption.

In breathtaking prose and inspired by true stories from a devastating and little-known era in Japanese and American history, *The Woman in the White Kimono* illuminates a searing portrait of one woman torn between her culture and her heart, and another woman on a journey to discover the true meaning of home.

#### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Discuss the role of culture and class in *The Woman in the White Kimono*. In what ways are Naoko's decisions driven by cultural norms and expectations about gender? How does this relate to today's society in America?
2. Naoko's mother presents her with a difficult choice: she can choose Hajime and keep their baby but must leave their family and never return; or she can stay with her family and marry Satoshi but must abort the baby. If you were faced with this decision, which would you choose and why?
3. How did Tori and Naoko's fathers act in their daughters' best interests? How did they act in their own? Why do you think Pops didn't tell Tori about his wife and daughter in Japan? How do you think the story would have changed if Tori had read the letter while Pops were alive?
4. Each of the girls at the maternity home were brought there by tragedy, a tragedy that is only worsened at the home. How does this shared experience bind the girls together? Do you think they would have been friends if they had met some other way?
5. Discuss the meaning of Tori and Little Bird sharing the same name. How does this give Tori and Naoko closure?

For discussion kits and other book club picks, visit [bit.ly/hqBookClubs](http://bit.ly/hqBookClubs)

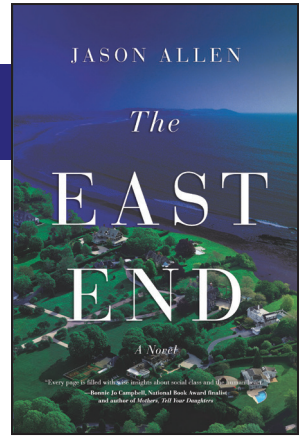
For readers of *River Under the Road*, *Orient and My Sunshine Away*.

**JASON ALLEN**  
**The East End**

978-0-778-30839-3 | \$26.99 | Park Row Books | HC

EB: 978-1-488-03658-3

DA: 978-1-488-20671-9 | AU: 978-1-488-25669-1



**ABOUT THE BOOK**

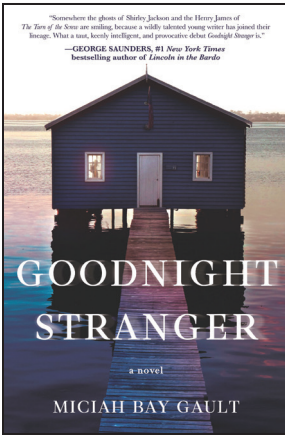
Corey Halpern, a local high schooler with a troubled home life, is desperate to leave the Hamptons and start anew somewhere else. His last summer before college, he settles for the escapism he finds in sneaking into neighboring mansions.

One night just before Memorial Day weekend, he breaks in to the wrong home at the wrong time: the Sheffield estate, where he and his mother, Gina, work. Under the cover of darkness, Leo Sheffield—a billionaire CEO, patriarch and the owner of the vast lakeside manor—arrives unexpectedly with a companion. After a shocking poolside accident, everything depends on Leo burying the truth before his family and friends arrive for the holiday weekend. Unfortunately for him, Corey saw what happened, as did other eyes in the shadows.

Secrecy, obsession and desperation dictate each character's path in this spectacular debut. In a race against time, each critical moment holds life in the balance as Corey, Gina and Leo approach a common breaking point. With an ending as explosive as the Memorial Day fireworks on the island, *The East End* welcomes a bright new voice in fiction.

**DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

1. Why do you think it's important to Corey that he leave the Hamptons? What does it mean for him to escape?
2. How is class explored within the story? What are the commonalities and differences between the Halperns and Sheffields?
3. How is the environment of the Hamptons used to impact the story?
4. Why do you think Corey decides to help Leo Sheffield? What about Leo's offer was most tempting for Corey?
5. Are Gina's actions throughout the book warranted? How have her circumstances shaped her? How have they enlightened her?



For readers of *Saints for All Occasions*,  
*The Keeper of Lost Things* and *History of Wolves*.

## MICIAH BAY GAULT *Goodnight Stranger*

978-0-778-30870-6 | \$25.99 | Park Row Books | HC

EB: 978-1-488-05101-2

DA: 978-1-488-20676-4 | AU: 978-1-488-25675-2

### ABOUT THE BOOK

Lydia and Lucas Moore are in their late twenties when the stranger enters their small world on Wolf Island. Lydia is the responsible sister, taking care of the pathologically shy Lucas ever since their mom passed a decade before. They live together in the large family house by the sea and are both comforted and confined by their insular lives, heavily shadowed by events from their childhood and the loss of their baby brother, Colin, who was their triplet.

When Lydia sees the stranger step off the ferry, she feels an immediate connection with him. Later, when Lucas meets him, Lucas is convinced this man is the reincarnation of Colin. How else could he be so familiar with their mannerisms, their habits, the topography of the island? Even his name, Cole, is eerily like Colin's. Lydia is suspicious, yet she can't deny his magnetism, his energy and warmth. Who is this Cole Anthony, and what is he after? To find out, Lydia must uncover sinister truths about her family and finally face her anxiety about leaving the island and her fear of losing her closeness with her brother. *Goodnight Stranger* is a spellbinding read that explores both the beautiful and transcendent ways it means to be family.

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. At the beginning of *Goodnight Stranger*, Lydia feels restricted living on Wolf Island. But we later learn she has panic attacks when she tries to leave. How might a place be both limiting and comforting?
2. Though they are the same age, Lydia sees herself as the protector of her brother Lucas. But in what ways does Lucas protect Lydia? How do their roles change over the course of the book?
3. What impact does Baby B's death have on the characters in the book? How might the characters' lives have been different if the three siblings grew up together?
4. Coles is the mysterious stranger that comes to the island. At what point did you realize that he wasn't everything he appeared to be? Did his true identity surprise you?
5. At the end of the book, did you think Lydia had grown as a person? Do you think she'll make a good mom?



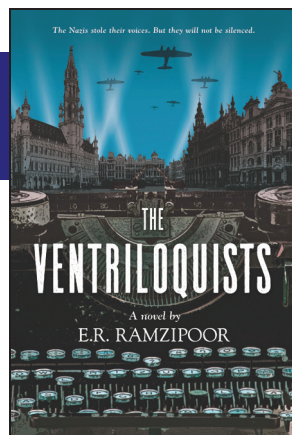
For readers of *The Tattooist of Auschwitz*,  
*The Women in the Castle* and  
*Everyone Brave is Forgiven*.

## E.R. RAMZIPOOR *The Ventriloquists*

978-0-778-30815-7 | \$27.99 | Park Row Books | HC

EB: 978-1-488-03514-2

DA: 978-1-488-20677-1 | AU: 978-1-488-25676-9



### ABOUT THE BOOK

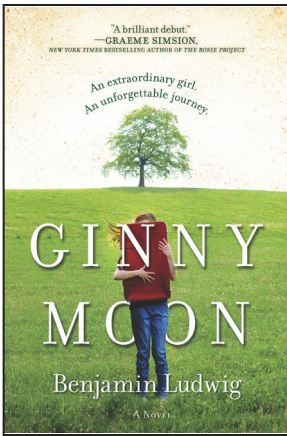
*Brussels, 1943.* Rogue journalist Marc Aubrion's creativity and linguistic genius attract the attention of August Wolff, a high-ranking Nazi propaganda official. Wolff captures Aubrion and his comrades and gives them an impossible choice: use their dissident newspaper to paint the Allies as monsters, or be killed. Instead, Aubrion has a brilliant idea: pretend to do the Nazis' bidding, but also publish a fake edition of *Le Soir* that pokes fun at Hitler and Stalin.

The ventriloquists have agreed to die for a joke, and they have only eighteen days to tell it.

Told with dazzling scope, taut prose and devastating emotion, *The Ventriloquists* illuminates the extraordinary acts of courage by unlikely heroes who went to extreme lengths to orchestrate the most stunning feat of journalism in modern history.

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. *The Ventriloquists* opens with a quote: "All art is propaganda." How does the book play with the relationship between art and propaganda? August Wolff is the head of the Department of Perception Management. His job is to produce and regulate propaganda in Nazi territories. Contrast his approach to that of Marc Aubrion, the artist who leads the *Faux Soir* endeavor. Does Wolff create art? Does Aubrion create propaganda?
2. Helene emphasizes the role of ordinary people in the resistance. Almost none of Gamin's heroes are the traditional figures we associate with WWII. Do you think these people were as larger-than-life as Gamin believes? Or does Gamin build them up in her imagination? Does the "ordinary hero" have parallels today?
3. This book is based on a true story. Many of the capers actually happened. Which parts do you think were real? Now look at the Author's Note in the back of the book to see if you were right! Does anything surprise you?
4. *The Ventriloquists* is about how information, both real and fake, can shape attitudes, beliefs and ideals. It took monumental effort and resources to publish *Faux Soir*, but today it could be posted on the internet in seconds. Does the availability of real and fake information online make it more powerful, or less? If *Faux Soir* were posted online instead of handed out in the streets, would it have had the same impact?
5. The characters are at their best when they embrace the childish and the absurd. After all, they risk their lives for a joke. What are your favorite moments of absurdity from the book? In your life and in the book, how does humor alleviate tragedy? Can one exist without the other?



For readers of *Where'd You Go, Bernadette*, *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time* and *Room*.

## BENJAMIN LUDWIG

### Ginny Moon

978-0-778-33088-2 | \$15.99 | Park Row Books | TPB

EB: 978-1-460-39796-1

DA: 978-1-488-20291-9 | AU: 978-1-488-25291-4

#### ABOUT THE BOOK

Ginny Moon is exceptional. Everyone knows it—her friends at school, teammates on the basketball team and especially her new adoptive parents. They all love her, even if they don't quite understand her. They want her to feel like she belongs.

What they don't know is that Ginny has no intention of belonging. She's found her birth-mother on Facebook and is determined to get back to her—even if it means going back to a place that was extremely dangerous. Because Ginny left something behind and she's desperate to get it back, to make things right.

But no one listens. No one understands. So, Ginny takes matters into her own hands...

Benjamin Ludwig's whip-smart, unforgettable novel is an illuminating look at one girl's journey to find her way home and one of the freshest debuts in years.

#### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Ginny's lack of emotional attachment to the people in her life makes her seem cold and unfriendly. Do you consider her to be an unfriendly person? How do you think Ginny might define the word friend?
2. Do you think the Moons acted reasonably with regard to Ginny before and after Wendy was born? If you had to step into the shoes of Brian and Maura Moon, and perceived your adopted child as a possible threat to your biological child, what would you do?
3. What do you think of Gloria's character? How would you describe Ginny's feelings toward her? How is Gloria perceived differently through Ginny's eyes and the other adults' eyes?
4. When the Moons and Patrice finally realized why Ginny was so concerned about her "baby doll," were you surprised? How did their original dismissal of Ginny's obsession make you feel?
5. What stereotypes surround people on the autism spectrum? To what extent does Ginny fulfill or defy such stereotypes?

For readers of *The Vegetarian*, *The Small Backs of Children* and *Atmospheric Disturbances*.

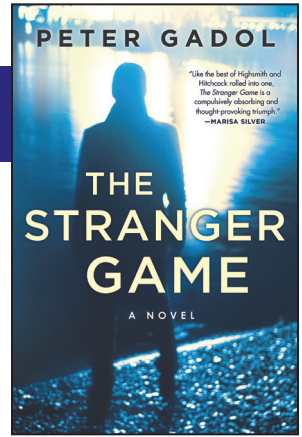
**PETER GADOL**  
**The Stranger Game**

978-1-335-94391-0 | \$25.99

Hanover Square Press | HC

EB: 978-1-488-01488-8

DA: 978-1-488-20522-4 | AU: 978-1-488-25522-9



**ABOUT THE BOOK**

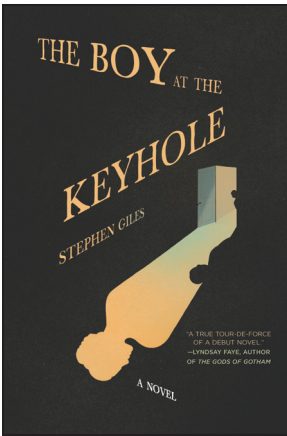
Rebecca's boyfriend, Ezra, has gone missing, but when she notifies the police, they seem surprisingly unconcerned. They suspect he has been playing the "stranger game," a viral hit in which players start following others in real life, as they might otherwise do on social media. As the game spreads, however, play grows more intense and disappearances are reported across the country.

Hoping that she might be able to track down Ezra, Rebecca tries the game for herself and meets Carey, who is willing to take the game further than she imagined. As her relationship with Carey and involvement in the game deepen, she uncovers an unsettling subculture that has infiltrated the world around her. In playing the stranger game, what may lead her closer to finding Ezra may take her further from the life she once lived.

A thought-provoking, haunting novel, *The Stranger Game* unearths the connections, both imagined and real, that we build with the people around us in the physical and digital world, and where the boundaries blur between them.

**DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

1. In *The Stranger Game*, the virtual act of following on social media is made literal. Does the novel invite you to assess your own relationship to social media or that of the people you know?
2. Rebecca begins playing the stranger game to find her missing ex-boyfriend Ezra. How does Rebecca's fascination with the game evolve? Before he appears in the present action of the novel, how do you feel about Ezra? And after he surfaces?
3. The stranger game rules are inevitably broken, including no contact with the strangers you follow. When they first meet, Carey is breaking the second rule, and he ends up hurting Rebecca. Why do you think she forgives him and ultimately starts dating him? Do you trust Carey's apologies?
4. What does A. Craig hope to accomplish by following random strangers. Do you feel his original intent is noble or is there always an ethical problem in following people you don't know?
5. When the stranger game is monetized with stagers and trespassers, are you surprised? How likely do you think it would be for such a dangerous fad to take off? Why do you think it is addictive?



For readers of *Rebecca*, *The Little Stranger* and the tales of Shirley Jackson.

## STEPHEN GILES *The Boy at the Keyhole*

978-1-335-65292-8 | \$25.99

Hanover Square Press | HC

EB: 978-1-488-09861-1

DA: 978-1-488-20517-0 | AU: 978-1-488-25517-5

### ABOUT THE BOOK

Nine-year-old Samuel lives alone in a once-great estate in Surrey with the family's housekeeper, Ruth. His father is dead and his mother has been abroad for months, purportedly tending to her late husband's faltering business. She left in a hurry one night while Samuel was sleeping and did not say goodbye.

Beyond her sporadic postcards, Samuel hears nothing from his mother. He misses her dearly and maps her journey in an atlas he finds in her study. Samuel's life is otherwise regulated by Ruth, who runs the house with an iron fist. Only she and Samuel know how brutally she enforces order.

As rumors in town begin to swirl, Samuel wonders whether something more sinister is afoot. Perhaps his mother did not leave but was murdered—by Ruth.

Artful, haunting and hurtling toward a psychological showdown, *The Boy at the Keyhole* is an incandescent debut about the precarious dance between truth and perception, and the shocking acts that occur behind closed doors.

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. *The Boy at the Keyhole* is written entirely from Samuel's perspective. Why do you think the author chose to write the book from the perspective of the child? How do you think the book would have differed had it been written from Ruth's perspective?
2. The story invokes classic gothic elements—a gloomy, decaying house, a sense of menace and brooding, a complex villain. To what extent did the book feel timeless? In what ways is it fresh?
3. When the rabbit was first introduced, did you sense any foreshadowing? Were you caught off guard when it appeared on the dinner plate? What does the rabbit symbolize?
4. What was your ultimate take on Ruth? Was she as evil as Samuel believed her to be? Where did you feel the truth resided?
5. What do you make of the end of the novel? Was it satisfying to you? Were you left with questions? Do you think the ambiguity served a purpose?



For readers of *Bright Lights, Big City*,  
*City on Fire* and *10:04*.

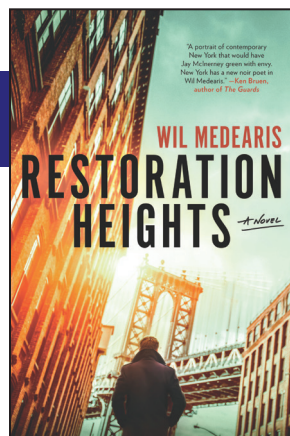
## WIL MEDEARIS Restoration Heights

978-1-335-65292-8 | \$26.99

Hanover Square Press | HC

EB: 978-1-488-09865-9

DA: 978-1-488-20557-6 | AU: 978-1-488-25558-8



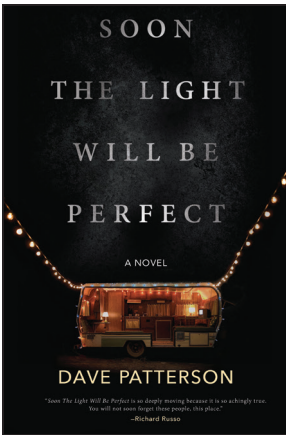
### ABOUT THE BOOK

Reddick, a young, white artist, lives in Bedford-Stuyvesant, a historically black Brooklyn neighborhood besieged by gentrification. He makes rent as an art handler, hanging expensive works for Manhattan's one percent, and spends his free time playing basketball at the local Y rather than putting energy into his stagnating career. He is also the last person to see Hannah before she disappears.

When Hannah's fiancé, scion to an old-money Upper East Side family, refuses to call the police, Reddick sets out to learn for himself what happened to her. The search gives him a sense of purpose, pulling him through a dramatic cross section of the city he never knew existed. The truth of Hannah's fate is buried at the heart of a many-layered mystery that, in its unraveling, shakes Reddick's convictions and lays bare the complicated machinations of money and power that connect the magisterial town houses of the Upper East Side to the unassuming brownstones of Bed-Stuy.

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. How does the setting of the book act as both a villain and a protagonist?
2. In what ways does Reddick's background as a white working-class Southerner affect his relationship to the people he encounters during his investigation? Does his understanding of himself change as the story progresses?
3. What is the relationship between Reddick's artistic practice and the missing person case?
4. What strategies are offered by the various groups of people in the novel in response to the specter of gentrification?
5. Would you encourage Reddick to pursue the investigation or to abandon it?



For readers of *We the Animals*, *Hillbilly Elegy* and *My Absolute Darling*.

## DAVE PATTERSON

### Soon the Light Will Be Perfect

978-1-335-65290-4 | \$25.99

Hanover Square Press | HC

EB: 978-1-488-09862-8

DA: 978-1-488-20594-1| AU: 978-1-488-25592-2

#### ABOUT THE BOOK

A twelve-year-old boy lives with his family in a small, poverty-stricken town in Vermont. His father works at a manufacturing plant, his mother is a homemaker, and his fifteen-year-old brother is about to enter high school. His family has gained enough financial stability to move out of the nearby trailer park, and as conflict rages abroad, his father's job at a weapons manufacturing plant appears safe. But then his mother is diagnosed with cancer, and everything changes.

As the family clings to the traditions of their hard-line Catholicism, he meets Taylor, a perceptive, beguiling girl from the trailer park, a girl who has been forced to grow up too fast. Taylor represents everything his life isn't, and their fledgling connection develops as his mother's health deteriorates.

Set over the course of one propulsive summer, *Soon the Light Will Be Perfect* chronicles the journey of two brothers on the cusp of adulthood, a town battered by poverty and a family at a breaking point. In spare, fiercely honest prose, Dave Patterson captures what it feels like to be gloriously, violently alive at a moment of political, social and familial instability.

#### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What does the title of the novel seem to refer to? Does it offer a hopeful sense to the tragedies that play out in the novel or does it imply a false sense of hope that seems to stalk the edge of each page?
2. Throughout the novel, the narrator's older brother appears to rebel against the strict Catholic rules of the parents. Does his character escape the struggles of Catholic guilt that seem to torture the narrator?
3. The narrator's parents see protesting abortion as a way to serve God. How does the father ultimately feel when the mother works against the views of the other protesters of her church at the end of Chapter Three?
4. The setting of this town is filled with various levels of poverty. How does the dynamics of poverty work in this novel? How is it possible to be poor, but still not at the bottom of the socio-economic ladder?
5. The narrator struggles with his emerging sexuality throughout the novel. How does his faith create and add to these struggles? By the end of the novel, has he come to terms with the intersection of Catholic faith and sexuality?

For discussion kits and other book club picks, visit [bit.ly/hqBookClubs](https://bit.ly/hqBookClubs)

For readers of *Pachinko*, *A Tale for the Time Being* and *We Were the Lucky Ones*.

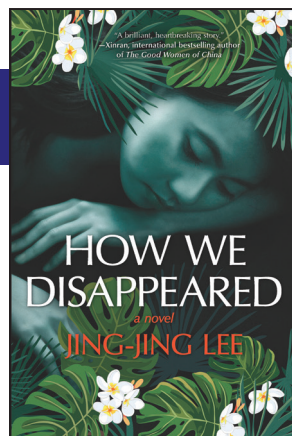
## JING-JING LEE *How We Disappeared*

978-1-335-95375-9 | \$26.99

Hanover Square Press | HC

EB: 978-1-488-05130-2

DA: 978-1-488-20635-1 | AU: 978-1-488-25634-9



### ABOUT THE BOOK

*Singapore, 1942.* As Japanese troops sweep down Malaysia and into Singapore, a village is ransacked, leaving only two survivors and one tiny child.

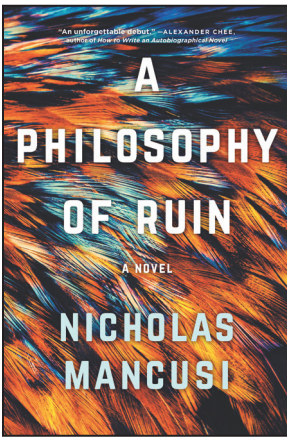
In a neighboring village, seventeen-year-old Wang Di is strapped into the back of a troop carrier and shipped off to a Japanese military brothel where she is forced into sexual slavery as a “comfort woman.” After sixty years of silence, what she saw and experienced still haunts her.

In the year 2000, twelve-year-old Kevin is sitting beside his ailing grandmother when he overhears a mumbled confession. He sets out to discover the truth, wherever it might lead, setting in motion a chain of events he never could have foreseen.

Weaving together two time lines and two very big secrets, this stunning debut opens a window on a little-known period of history, revealing the strength and bravery shown by numerous women in the face of terrible cruelty. Drawing in part on her family’s experiences, Jing-Jing Lee has crafted a profoundly moving, unforgettable novel about human resilience, the bonds of family and the courage it takes to confront the past.

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. *How We Disappeared* is a sweeping novel that spans decades and characters. What was the cumulative effect of the novel’s breadth? Would it have been as impactful if the story had been compressed to one character or one temporal moment?
2. What did you find most compelling about Wang Di as a character?
3. *How We Disappeared* is grounded in historical reality. What did you take away from the novel about the Japanese occupation of Singapore?
4. Jing-Jing Lee is also a poet. What did you make of the writing in *How We Disappeared*? How did the novel’s style inform the narrative?
5. Did you find the end of the novel satisfying? How do you envision Wang Di and Kevin’s lives going forward?



For readers of *You, Ill Will* and  
*I'm Thinking of Ending Things*.

## NICHOLAS MANCUSI *A Philosophy of Ruin*

978-1-335-93066-8 | \$26.99

Hanover Square Press | HC

EB: 978-1-488-09863-5

DA: 978-1-488-20640-5 | AU: 978-1-488-25639-4

### ABOUT THE BOOK

Oscar Boatwright, a disenchanted philosophy professor, receives terrible news. His mother, on her way home from Hawaii with Oscar's father, has died midflight, her body cooling for hours until the plane can land.

Deeply grieving, Oscar feels his life slipping out of his control. A seemingly innocuous one-night stand with a woman named Dawn becomes volatile when, on the first day of classes, he realizes she is his student, and later learns that she is a fledgling campus drug lord. To make matters worse, his family is in debt, having lost their modest savings to a self-help guru who had indoctrinated Oscar's mother by preying on her depression. Desperate to help his family, Oscar breaks with his academic personality—he agrees to help Dawn with a drug run.

*A Philosophy of Ruin* rumbles with brooding nihilism, then it cracks like a whip, hurtling Oscar and Dawn toward a terrifying threat on the road. Can Oscar halt the acceleration of chaos? Or was his fate never in his control? Taut, ferocious and blazingly intelligent, *A Philosophy of Ruin* is a heart-pounding thrill ride into the darkest corners of human geography, and a philosophical reckoning with the forces that determine our destiny.

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. How is the concept of free will explored in this book, both explicitly and implicitly?
2. If you were in Oscar's position, would you have accepted Dawn's offer?
3. Whose worldview do you agree with more? Paul St. Germaine, who thinks that everything is predetermined? Or Matadamas, who thinks that he creates his own reality?
4. Why do you think the author chose to include a flashback to Oscar's childhood? What do you think that memory, of Oscar bringing cereal to his mother, is meant to represent?
5. Does philosophy have any practical value? Do you think it's possible to think your way to a better life?



For readers of *Julia and Julia*, *The Radium Girls*  
and *Liar, Temptress, Soldier, Spy*.

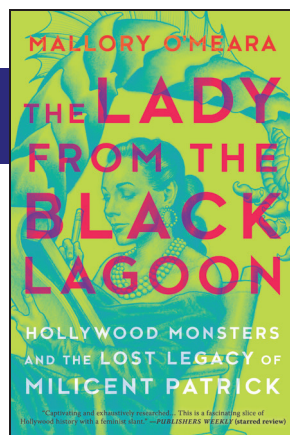
## MALLORY O'MEARA The Lady from the Black Lagoon

978-1-335-93780-3 | \$26.99

Hanover Square Press | HC

EB: 978-1-488-09874-1

DA: 978-1-488-20593-4 | AU: 978-1-488-25591-5



### ABOUT THE BOOK

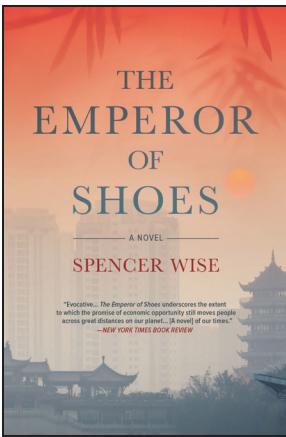
As a teenager, Mallory O'Meara was thrilled to discover that one of her favorite movies, *Creature from the Black Lagoon*, featured a monster designed by a woman, Milicent Patrick. But for someone who should have been hailed as a pioneer in the genre, there was little information available. For, as O'Meara soon discovered, Patrick's contribution had been claimed by a jealous male colleague, her career had been cut short and she soon after had disappeared from film history. No one even knew if she was still alive.

As a young woman working in the horror film industry, O'Meara set out to right the wrong, and in the process discovered the full, fascinating story of an ambitious, artistic woman ahead of her time. Patrick's contribution to special effects proved to be just the latest chapter in a remarkable, unconventional life, from her youth growing up in the shadow of Hearst Castle, to her career as one of Disney's first female animators. And at last, O'Meara discovered what really had happened to Patrick after *The Creature*'s success, and where she went.

A true-life detective story and a celebration of a forgotten feminist trailblazer, Mallory O'Meara's *The Lady from the Black Lagoon* establishes Patrick in her rightful place in film history while calling out a Hollywood culture where little has changed since.

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Would Milicent Patrick's life have been different if she spent her formative years somewhere other than the Hearst Castle estate?
2. How did Milicent's self-made Hollywood persona change her career? Would a persona affect your own career?
3. What kind of monster would you have liked to see Milicent design?
4. Why would you say it is important for women to be involved behind the scenes in films? What about horror films, in particular?
5. If you could ask Milicent one question, what would it be?



For readers of *Do Not Say We Have Nothing*,  
*The Association of Small Bombs* and *Fieldwork*.

## SPENCER WISE **The Emperor of Shoes**

978-1-335-00548-9 | \$15.99

Hanover Square Press | TPB

EB: 978-1-488-08056-2

DA: 978-1-488-20473-9 | AU: 978-1-488-25473-4

### ABOUT THE BOOK

Alex Cohen, a twenty-six-year-old Jewish Bostonian, is living in southern China, where his father runs their family-owned shoe factory. Alex reluctantly assumes the helm of the company, but as he explores the plant's vast floors and assembly lines, he comes to a grim realization: employees are exploited, regulatory systems are corrupt and Alex's own father is engaging in bribes to protect the bottom line.

When Alex meets a seamstress named Ivy, his sympathies begin to shift. She is an embedded organizer of a pro-democratic Chinese party, secretly sowing dissonance among her fellow laborers. Will Alex remain loyal to his father and his heritage? Or will the sparks of revolution ignite?

Deftly plotted and vibrantly drawn, *The Emperor of Shoes* is a timely meditation on idealism, ambition, father-son rivalry and cultural revolution, set against a vivid backdrop of social and technological change.

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Discuss the evolution of Alex's relationship with his father. In what ways does Alex defiantly forge his own path and in what ways is he hemmed in by his father's expectations? Where does the end of the novel leave this father-son relationship?
2. Ghosts, or gweilos, appear throughout the book. How does the figure of the phantom function within the context of Foshan and its factories? What or who are the novel's ghosts haunting? What truths do these specters reveal?
3. Bernie identifies Alex and himself as "Inbetweeners"—the "middle step" between America and China. How does Alex embody this intermediary role? Where do you see his sense of identity shifting and redefining itself? Is there a kind of freedom that comes from his in-between state and unstable identity?
4. What part does Alex and Ivy's romance play in the factory workers' revolution? Does one exist without the other, or are they inseparably tied together?
5. Who is the emperor of shoes? Do multiple characters share this title? Does the label shift from one person to another as the story goes on?

**For readers of *The Essex Serpent*,  
*The Miniaturist* and *Blackberry and Wild Rose*.**

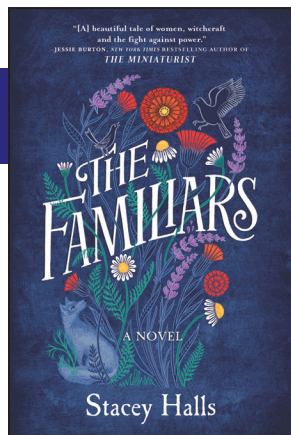
# STACEY HALLS

## The Familiars

978-0-778-36918-9 | \$26.99 | MIRA Books | HC

EB: 978-1-488-03502-9

DA: 978-1-488-20572-9 | AU: 978-1-488-25570-0



## ABOUT THE BOOK

Young Fleetwood Shuttleworth, noblewoman of Gawthorpe Hall, one of the finest houses in Lancashire, is pregnant for the fourth time. None of her previous pregnancies have been successful, and her husband, Richard, is anxious for an heir. When Fleetwood finds a hidden letter from the doctor who delivered her last stillbirth, she learns of the prediction that she will not survive another pregnancy. By chance she meets a midwife named Alice Grey, who promises to help Fleetwood deliver a healthy baby and prove the physician wrong. But Alice herself is soon drawn into the witchcraft accusations that are sweeping the area. Fleetwood must risk everything to help clear her name.

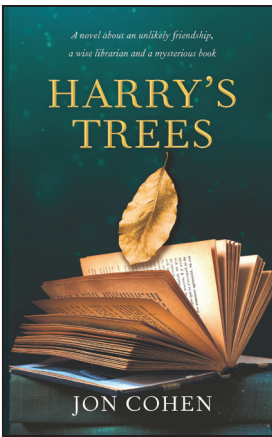
But is there more to Alice than meets the eye? As the two women's lives become inextricably bound together, the now infamous Witch Trials of 1612 approach, and Fleetwood's impending delivery looms. Time is running out, and both their lives are at stake. Only they know the truth. Only they can save each other.

Fleetwood Shuttleworth, Alice Grey and all the other characters in this novel are based on real people who fell under the spell of these witch trials. Even woodland creatures, “the familiars,” are suspected of aiding the local sorceresses in their practice of dark magic. In the early seventeenth century Lancashire was deemed a lawless county full of Catholics, criminals and conspirators, and King James I was obsessed with capturing witches, who were mostly poor, illiterate women.

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Women were disproportionately targeted as part of the witch hunts of this period. Why do you think this was?
2. Alice and Fleetwood are from very different backgrounds, but their lives have many similarities. Discuss what they have in common—is one better off than the other?
3. The familiar spirits in the book are ambiguous. Do you believe they played a real part in the story or were the imaginings of suspicion? And why is Puck never considered to be one, when he shows supposed signs of being a familiar, such as sucking his mistress' blood and attacking on demand?
4. Richard is not an archetypal romantic hero, nor is he a villain. But is he more of one than the other?
5. Do you think Alice was a witch?

**For discussion kits and other book club picks, visit [bit.ly/hqBookClubs](https://bit.ly/hqBookClubs)**



For readers of *The Storied Life of A. J. Fikry*,  
*The Accidental Tourist* and *A Man Called Ove*.

## JON COHEN

### Harry's Trees

978-0-778-30882-9 | \$16.99 | MIRA Books | TPB

EB: 978-1-488-07942-9

DA: 978-1-488-20468-5 | AU: 978-1-488-25468-0

#### ABOUT THE BOOK

Thirty-four-year-old Harry Crane works for the US Forest Service. When his wife dies suddenly, he is unable to cope. Leaving his job and his old life behind, Harry makes his way to the remote woods of northeastern Pennsylvania's Endless Mountains, determined to lose himself. But fate intervenes in the form of a fiercely determined young girl named Oriana. She and her mother, Amanda, are struggling to pick up the pieces from their own tragedy—Amanda stoically holding it together while Oriana roams the forest searching for answers. And in Oriana's magical, willful mind, she believes that Harry is the key to righting her world.

After taking up residence in the woods behind Amanda's house, Harry reluctantly agrees to help Oriana in a ludicrous scheme to escape his tragic past. In so doing, the unlikely of elements—a wolf, a stash of gold coins, a fairy tale called “The Grum's Ledger” and a wise old librarian named Olive—come together to create a golden adventure that will fulfill Oriana's wildest dreams and open Harry's heart to a whole new life.

#### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. We all at times indulge in a bit of magical thinking. We're at a wedding, say, and it's been raining—but just as the ceremony starts, the sun comes out. We smile because the marriage is now somehow blessed. We imbue the ordinary with special meaning. What are some instances in *Harry's Trees* where a character engages in magical thinking? Can you recall some moments of magical thinking in your own life?
2. Fairy tales have been around forever. What's their appeal, and how does *Harry's Trees* use the fairy tale form either in a traditional way or with a twist? Did the fairy-tale elements here work for you?
3. In many tales, gold is at the heart of the story, often hoarded and fought over. But Harry gives his gold away. What do you think is the significance of gold in this book, both for Harry and the others that it touches?
4. A number of characters in the novel have memorable childhood encounters with books. Do you have a special book that you treasured as a child? How has that book influenced you?
5. Many readers have commented that reading *Harry's Trees* has reaffirmed their faith in humanity. They feel the novel is an antidote to the bad news in today's world. Do you share a similar feeling of inspiration? If so, why do you think that is?

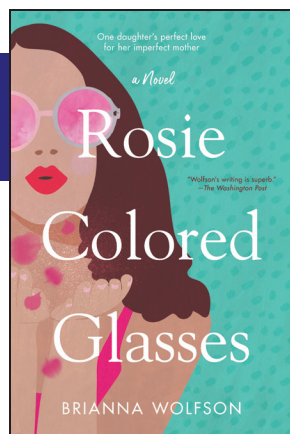
For readers of *Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close*, *Ordinary People* and *Eleanor Oliphant is Completely Fine*.

**BRIANNA WOLFSON**  
**Rosie Colored Glasses**

978-0-778-30850-8 | \$16.99 | MIRA Books | TPB

EB: 978-1-488-02289-0

DA: 978-1-488-20410-4 | AU: 978-1-488-25410-9



**ABOUT THE BOOK**

Just as opposites attract, they can also cause friction, and no one feels that friction more than Rex and Rosie's daughter, Willow. Rex is serious and unsentimental and tapes checklists of chores on Willow's bedroom door. Rosie is sparkling and enchanting and meets Willow in their treehouse in the middle of the night to feast on candy.

After Rex and Rosie's divorce, Willow finds herself navigating their two different worlds. She is clearly under the spell of her exciting, fun-loving mother. But as Rosie's behavior becomes more turbulent, the darker underpinnings of her manic love are revealed.

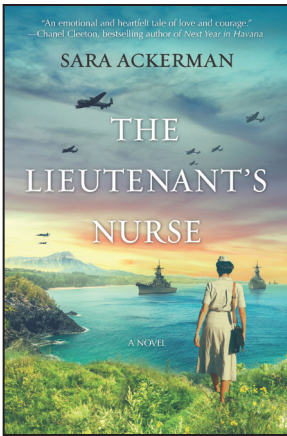
Rex had removed his Rosie colored glasses long ago but will Willow do the same?

Whimsical, heartbreaking and uplifting, this is a novel about the many ways love can find you. *Rosie Colored Glasses* triumphs with the most endearing examples of how mothers and fathers and sons and daughters bend for one another.

**DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

1. It is not easy to sustain Rosie's level of exuberance. Does it come naturally to her? If not, why does Rosie work so hard to maintain such heightened emotions?
2. Rosie idolizes her mother and basks in her warm glow. Her father's influence pales in comparison. Do you think Rex loves Willow any less than Rosie does? Why? Why not?
3. What do Pixy Stix represent to Rosie?
4. Rosie would never want to hurt Willow, yet somehow she does anyway. Is this beyond Rosie's control? If not, is it anyone's fault?
5. What type of people are you more drawn to—the Rosies of the world or the Rexes? Or perhaps the Willows?





For readers of *The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society*, *The Daughter of Moloka'i* and *Next Year in Havana*.

## SARA ACKERMAN The Lieutenant's Nurse

978-0-778-30791-4 | \$16.99 | MIRA Books | TPB

EB: 978-1-488-08856-8

DA: 978-1-488-20578-1 | AU: 978-1-488-25576-2

### ABOUT THE BOOK

*November, 1941.* Eva Cassidy has reasons for making the crossing to Hawaii, and they run a lot deeper than escaping a harsh Michigan winter. Newly enlisted as an Army Corps nurse, Eva is stunned by the splendor she experiences aboard the *SS Lurline*, but more so by Lt. Clark Spencer, a man to whom she is drawn but who clearly has secrets of his own. As an army intelligence officer, Clark knows that the United States won't be able to hold off joining the war for long, but nothing can prepare them for the surprise attack that will change the world they know. In the wake of the bombing of Pearl Harbor, Eva and her fellow nurses will fight to keep the American wounded alive, and Eva will have to decide what kind of woman she will become.

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Do you think Eva made the right choice to leave Michigan? Were her lies about what happened at the hospital justified?
2. How did you feel about Eva's loyalty or disloyalty to Billy? Do you think she acted appropriately? Should she have followed her heart with Clark sooner? Not at all?
3. Unless one has been through an event such as this, it's hard to imagine the terror and fear they experienced. If you put yourself in the shoes of the nurses, how do you think you would have held up?
4. The nurses got each other through the days after the attack. Have you ever been in a situation where you needed to rely on the support of a group of friends or colleagues? What is the effect of shared trauma on a group?
5. What did you learn about the attack on Pearl Harbor that you didn't already know?

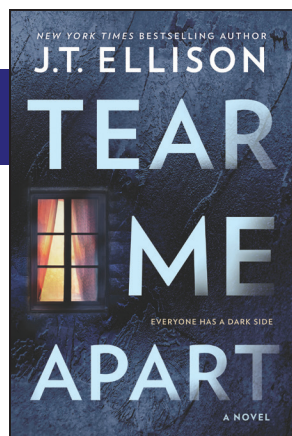
For readers of *The Good Girl, Pretty Girls*  
and *The Woman in Cabin 10*.

**J.T. ELLISON**  
**Tear Me Apart**

978-0-778-33000-4 | \$16.99 | MIRA Books| TPB

EB: 978-1-460-39671-1

DA: 978-1-488-20497-5 | AU: 978-1-488-25497-0



## ABOUT THE BOOK

**One moment will change their lives forever...**

Competitive skier Mindy Wright is a superstar in the making until a spectacular downhill crash threatens not just her racing career but her life. During surgery, doctors discover she's suffering from a severe form of leukemia, and a stem cell transplant is her only hope. But when her parents are tested, a frightening truth emerges. Mindy is not their daughter.

**Who knows the answers?**

The race to save Mindy's life means unraveling years of lies. Was she accidentally switched at birth or is there something more sinister at play? The search for the truth will tear a family apart...and someone is going to deadly extremes to protect the family's deepest secrets.

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Lauren is the mother of a highly competitive athlete and has sacrificed her own life to ensure her daughter's success. What are your thoughts on parents who focus so intently on their child's ambitions?
2. As Juliet tries to discover why Mindy's DNA doesn't match her family's she begins to realize her sister is protecting dark secrets. If you discovered a family member was hiding something about their past would you want to know the truth or would you be happier to leave things as they are?
3. There is so much interest in testing your DNA these days but what would you do if your test revealed unexpected information. Is that a risk you are willing to take?
4. This book examines how far a mother will go to protect her child but also questions the definition of motherhood—and sharing DNA is not a requirement. What are the key elements necessary for a strong mother-daughter bond?
5. Love is at the heart of many of the terrible things that happen in this novel. Why is it that people use love as an excuse to justify bad behavior? Have you asked someone or been asked by someone to do something you know is wrong in the name of love?



For readers of *Single White Female*,  
*Big Little Lies* and *The Couple Next Door*.

## ADELE PARKS *I Invited Her In*

978-0-778-36921-9 | \$16.99 | MIRA Books | TPB

EB: 978-1-488-03505-0

DA: 978-1-488-20568-2 | AU: 978-1-488-25566-3

### ABOUT THE BOOK

*I invited her in...and she took everything.*

When Mel hears from a long-lost friend in need of help, she doesn't hesitate to invite her to stay. Mel and Abi were best friends back in the day, sharing the highs and lows of student life, until Mel's unplanned pregnancy made her drop out of university.

Now, seventeen years later, Mel and Abi's lives couldn't be more different. Mel is happily married, having raised her son on her own before meeting her husband, Ben. Now they share gorgeous girls and have a chaotic but happy family home, with three children.

Abi, meanwhile, followed her lover to LA for a glamorous life of parties, celebrity and indulgence. Everything was perfect, until she discovered her husband had been cheating on her. Seventeen years wasted, and nothing to show for it. So what Abi needs now is a true friend to lean on, to share her grief over a glass of wine and to have some time to heal. And what better place than Mel's house, with her lovely kids, and supportive husband...

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. If an old friend contacted you out of the blue, would you feel comfortable inviting them to stay in your house when you haven't seen them in years? Would they recognize you as the same person you used to be?
2. Does your best friend know everything about you or are there secrets you keep? If so, why?
3. What would you do if your friend completely betrayed your trust. Could you ever forgive her?
4. If you have a family, do you pine for your carefree single days? If you are single, do you think family life would be much better? Why is it so easy to believe that the grass is greener in other people's lives?
5. If you were in Mel's place, how far would you go to protect your family from Abi?

For readers of *Lilac Girls*, *Hidden Figures*  
and *The Atomic City Girls*.

## NOELLE SALAZAR

### The Flight Girls

978-0-778-36922-6 | \$16.99 | MIRA Books | TPB

EB: 978-1-488-03506-7

DA: 978-1-488-20665-8 | AU: 978-1-488-25664-6



#### ABOUT THE BOOK

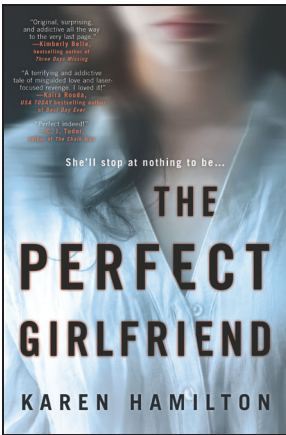
Audrey Coltrane has always wanted to fly. It's why she implored her father to teach her at the little airfield back home in Texas. It's why she signed up to train military pilots in Hawaii when the war in Europe began. And it's why she insists she is not interested in any dream-derailing romantic involvements, even with the disarming Lieutenant James Hart, who fast becomes a friend as dear as the women she flies with. Then one fateful day, she gets caught in the air over Pearl Harbor just as the bombs begin to fall, and suddenly, nowhere feels safe.

Following the attack, Audrey struggles to reconcile her devastating losses—colleagues, friends and the piece of her heart she left in the air. She seizes the opportunity to join the Women Airforce Service Pilots, hoping to make everything she's lost count for something.

The fast friendships she forms with her fellow WASP women reignites a spark of hope in the face of a war that moves closer to home every day. When James goes missing in action, those bonds help her summon the courage to cross the front lines and give her the faith that they will return stateside—together.

#### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Women served many important roles during World War II. This book touches on the female pilots who helped train soldiers. What other ways did women contribute to the war effort?
2. Did you know about the Women Airforce Service Pilots program? If so, how did you learn about it? If not, were you surprised to learn of its existence?
3. The story hosts a rich cast of characters, from Audrey's roommates in Hawaii to the girls she trains with in the Women Airforce Service Pilots program. Who was your favorite character and why?
4. The pilots in the story face a lot of discrimination from male officers who don't expect them to have the strength or brains to fly warplanes. Do you think society has come a long way since those days, or do men still discriminate against women in certain lines of work?
5. From the very beginning of the story, Audrey expresses her need for freedom. She doesn't want what so many others want—marriage and family—and is okay with being alone. Do you believe she could truly be happy without someone to share her life with, as so many of her friends tell her she must have?



For readers of *The Last Mrs. Parrish*,  
*Fatal Attraction* and *Sometimes I Lie*.

## KAREN HAMILTON **The Perfect Girlfriend**

978-1-525-83173-7 | \$16.99 | Graydon House | TPB

EB: 978-1-488-03496-1

DA: 978-1-488-20583-5 | AU: 978-1-488-25581-6

### ABOUT THE BOOK

Juliette loves Nate.

She will follow him anywhere. She's even become a flight attendant for his airline so she can keep a closer eye on him.

They are meant to be.

The fact that Nate broke up with her six months ago means nothing. Because Juliette has a plan to win him back. She is the perfect girlfriend. And she'll make sure no one stops her from getting exactly what she wants.

True love hurts, but Juliette knows it's worth all the pain...

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Juliette has an assured, if unsettling, voice. Did you sympathize with her at all? Why or why not?
2. One of the things Juliette struggles with is forming solid female friendships. Why do you think this is? But still, when she thinks about Amy, Juliette says "Every girl needs a best friend." Can you reflect on that statement and how it relates to Juliette's behavior?
3. Nate and Juliette took very different paths as they grew into adults. How much of that has to do with the differing ways our society treats men and women?
4. Juliette's experience at the dance, when she was a teenager, is a difficult scene. What did you think when you read it? How does this scene fit into the #MeToo movement?
5. Can you reflect on the airline and international settings in this novel? How does it tie into the story and allow for character development?



For readers of *Before We Were Yours*,  
*The Huntress* and *The Nightingale*.

**KELLY RIMMER**

## **The Things We Cannot Say**

978-1-525-82356-5 | \$16.99 | Graydon House | TPB

EB: 978-1-488-09678-5

DA: 978-1-488-20584-2 | AU: 978-1-488-25582-3



### **ABOUT THE BOOK**

In 1942, Europe remains in the relentless grip of war. Just beyond the tents of the Russian refugee camp she calls home, a young woman speaks her wedding vows. It's a decision that will alter her destiny...and it's a lie that will remain buried until the next century.

Since she was nine years old, Alina Dziak knew she would marry her best friend, Tomasz. Now fifteen and engaged, Alina is unconcerned by reports of Nazi soldiers at the Polish border, believing her neighbors that they pose no real threat, and dreams instead of the day Tomasz returns from college in Warsaw so they can be married. But the Nazi occupation takes hold, and Alina's tiny rural village, and its families, are divided by fear and hate. Then, as the fabric of their lives is slowly picked apart, Tomasz disappears.

Slipping between Nazi-occupied Poland and the frenetic pace of modern life, Kelly Rimmer creates an emotional and finely wrought narrative that weaves together two women's stories into a tapestry of perseverance, loyalty, love and honor.

### **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

1. Alina lives a relatively sheltered life. How is her behavior shaped by her family's attitude towards her? How does her character evolve over the course of the story?
2. Tomasz was coerced to serve in the Wehrmacht, and in doing so, inadvertently played a role in one of the most horrific chapters in human history. How did this decision change the course of his life and the life of his descendants?
3. In your opinion, what should Tomasz have done when faced with the pressure to comply with the Nazi agenda? Do you think he had another choice? Was he redeemed once he deserted the Wehrmacht, or are some acts unforgivable?
4. Do you think Tomasz ever intended to follow Alina, or did he know all along that he'd need to turn himself in after she left with Saul? And if Tomasz had escaped to safety with Alina, would he have been able to leave his guilt behind?
5. Take a moment to reflect on your own family's story. Do you know much about your grandparents' early lives? How have your grandparents' decisions in their youth affected your life? What questions do you wish you could (or would you like to) ask them about their younger years?



For readers of *Commencement*, *The Graduate* and *Tell Me Lies*.

## AMY MASON DOAN *Summer Hours*

978-1-525-82357-2 | \$16.99 | Graydon House | TPB

EB: 978-1-488-09679-2

DA: 978-1-488-20631-3 | AU: 978-1-488-25630-1

### ABOUT THE BOOK

Becc was the good girl. A dedicated student. Aspiring reporter. Always where she was supposed to be. Until a secret affair with the charming Cal one summer in college cost her everything she held dear: her journalism dreams; her relationship with her best friend, Eric; and her carefully imagined future.

Now ten years older and wiser, Becc knows there's no changing the past. Still, as she travels to the wedding of a childhood friend, she can't help but feel the thrilling push and pull of memories with each mile up the scenic California coast—from infinite nights at beach bonfires and lavish boat parties to stealthy movie sessions during work hours. But the mystery man beside her is not so eager to recreate history. And as the events of that heartbreaking summer come into view, Becc must decide if those dazzling summer hours they once shared are worth fighting for or if they're lost forever.

Set in the mid '90s and 2008, Amy Mason Doan's *Summer Hours* is a warmly told novel about the idealism of youth, the seductive power of nostalgia, and what happens when you realize you haven't become the person you'd always promised to be.

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Contrast Becc's relationships with Cal and Eric. How was Becc a different person in each relationship? Who did you feel was better for her?
2. Does Becc face more lingering consequences from the affair than Cal? Why do you think that is? Should she have regretted their relationship more, or did she ultimately gain something from it?
3. Like *The Graduate*, the novel features a love triangle, but in this case, a woman is at the point. How does the story challenge traditional gender tropes?
4. Becc and Eric are often worried they might be "selling out." How does this notion of selling out shape their lives? Is it possible to balance dreams and professional realities?
5. Compare the journalism industry we see through Becc's professional path in both the mid '90s and 2008 to the ways people get news today. Do you think the changes have been positive, negative or both?

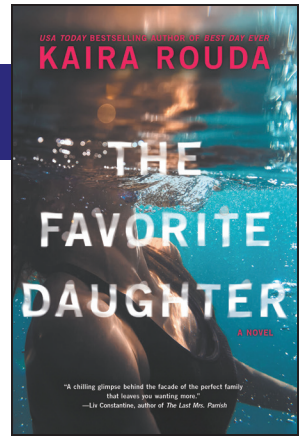
For readers of *The Last Mrs. Parrish*,  
*A Stranger in the House* and *The Breakdown*.

**KAIRA ROUDA**  
**The Favorite Daughter**

978-1-525-83514-8 | \$26.99 | Graydon House | HC

EB: 978-1-488-02856-4

DA: 978-1-488-20573-6 | AU: 978-1-488-25571-7



## ABOUT THE BOOK

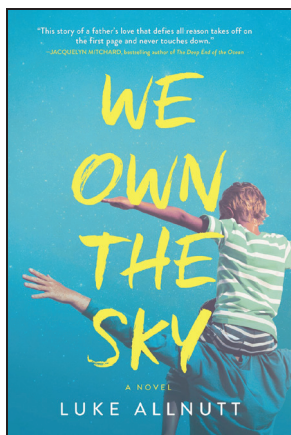
Jane Harris lives in a sparkling home in an oceanfront gated community in Orange County. It's a place that seems too beautiful to be touched by sadness. But exactly one year ago, Jane's oldest daughter, Mary, died in a tragic accident and Jane has been grief-stricken ever since. Lost in a haze of anti-depressants, she's barely even left the house. Now that's all about to change.

It's time for Jane to reclaim her life and her family. Jane's husband, David, has planned a memorial service for Mary and three days later, their youngest daughter, Betsy, graduates high school. Yet as Jane reemerges into the world, it's clear her family has changed without her. Her husband has been working long days—and nights—at the office. Her daughter seems distant, even secretive. And her beloved Mary was always such a good girl—dutiful and loving. But does someone know more about Mary, and about her last day, than they've revealed?

The bonds between mothers and daughters, and husbands and wives should never be broken. But you never know how far someone will go to keep a family together...

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. We're all unreliable narrators of our personal stories, whether we're comfortable admitting it or not. For example, most of us are on social media these days where we share our filtered and carefully curated version of our lives. The perfect couple. The perfect day. A perfect illusion. Is Jane Harris that much different?
2. Does Jane have a favorite daughter? Why or why not?
3. At the beginning of the story, Jane tells us she's working on being a better mother, a better spouse. Is she trying to fool you, the reader or herself?
4. In our society, we elevate and treasure mothers, almost to a point where the ideal of what a mother should be obscures the actual reality of who she is. Do you think that's part of how Jane was able to keep her true self hidden for so long? Was it hard for you to imagine a mother who isn't what she seems?
5. Betsy is a step ahead of Jane in this story. Is she just like her mom, as Jane claims? Or has Betsy become Jane's complete opposite?



For readers of *Me Before You*,  
*The Fault in Our Stars* and *My Sister's Keeper*.

## LUKE ALLNUTT

### **We Own the Sky**

978-0-778-30770-9 | \$16.99 | Park Row Books | TPB

EB: 978-1-488-07871-2

DA: 978-1-488-20428-9 | AU: 978-1-488-25428-4

### ABOUT THE BOOK

Rob Coates is a survivor.

He'd thought he'd won the lottery of life—a beautiful home, an incredible wife Anna, and their precious son Jack, who makes every day an extraordinary adventure. But when tragedy befalls his family, Rob becomes his own worst enemy, pushing away all he holds dear. With his world now suddenly just outside of his grasp, Rob turns to photography, capturing the beautiful skyscrapers and clifftops he used to visit—memories of the time when his family was happy. And just when it feels as though there's nowhere left to turn, Rob embarks on the most unforgettable of journeys to reclaim the joy and love he thought he'd lost.

Deeply emotional, beautifully written and filled with tremendous heart, *We Own the Sky* is a soaring debut about the strength of the human spirit and the boundlessness of love. It is a stunningly honest reminder of life's greatest gifts, showing how even a broken heart can learn to beat again.

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. At one point, Rob talks about the inevitability of couples breaking apart after losing a child. What could Rob and Anna have done to stay together? Do you think their relationship has a future?
2. Is Rob too self-centered? Did he consider Anna's feelings enough? And does he deserve her forgiveness in the end?
3. The online forum "Hope's Place" becomes an important part of Rob's life. How can online communities help in such situations? And why do you think people reach out to strangers online?
4. Do you think Rob is a reliable narrator? Do you think Anna's version of events would be radically different?
5. With a few exceptions, Rob and Anna felt their friends and acquaintances were being unsupportive. How best can friends support people who are going through something similar?

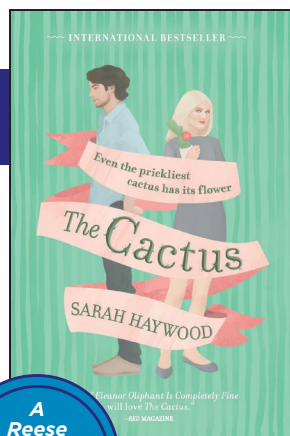
For readers of *The Rosie Project*,  
*Be Frank with Me* and *Bridget Jones's Diary*.

## SARAH HAYWOOD The Cactus

978-0-778-36907-3 | \$16.99 | Park Row Books | TPB

EB: 978-1-488-07872-9

DA: 978-1-488-20456-2 | AU: 978-1-488-25456-7



A  
Reese  
Witherspoon  
Book Club  
Pick!

### ABOUT THE BOOK

*Even the prickliest cactus has its flower...*

For Susan Green, messy emotions don't fit into the equation of her perfectly ordered life. She has a flat that is ideal for one, a job that suits her passion for logic and an "interpersonal arrangement" that provides cultural and other, more intimate, benefits. But suddenly confronted with the loss of her mother and the news that she is about to become a mother herself, Susan's greatest fear is realized. She is losing control.

When she learns that her mother's will inexplicably favors her indolent brother, Edward, Susan's already dismantled world is sent flying into a tailspin. As Susan's due date draws near and her family problems become increasingly difficult to ignore, Susan finds help and self-discovery in the most unlikely of places.

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Susan Green is a prickly individual. Part of the enjoyment of the novel is seeing Susan soften and let people into her life. What do you think contributes the most to Susan's transformation as a character? We've all known someone like her, but is there a little bit of Susan in all of us?
2. How much do you think Susan's childhood shaped her and made her keep the world and relationships at bay?
3. Whether or not Susan and Edward will continue to play a part in one another's lives is left open at the end of the novel. Should family always stick together, or do we sometimes have to accept that the differences are too great?
4. Discuss how the theme of motherhood plays out in the book. How does Susan's relationship with her own mother impact her attitude about becoming a mother herself?
5. Susan approaches romantic love much like one would approach a business transaction. Do you think Susan has ever experienced true love? Does she come to experience it by the end of the book?





**For discussion kits and other book club picks,  
visit [bit.ly/hqBookClubs](https://bit.ly/hqBookClubs)**

