

LONDON 2020

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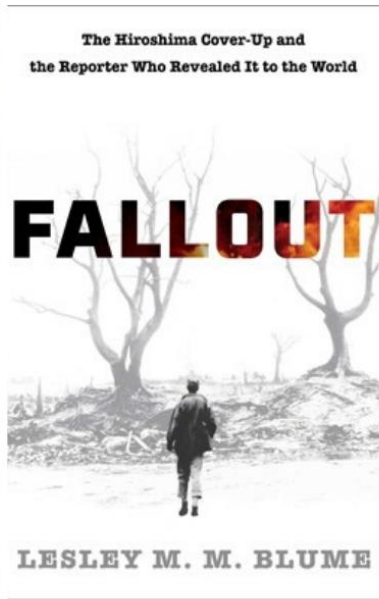
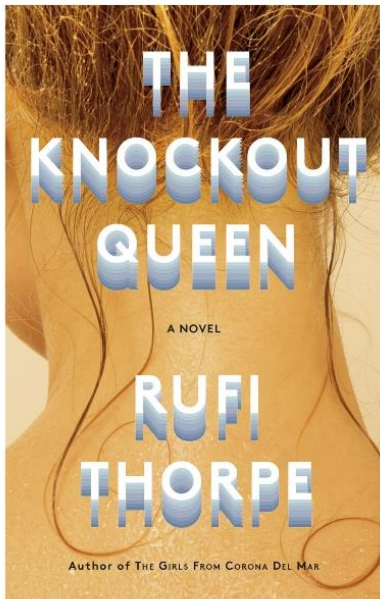
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BEE MUSIC

By Eileen Garvin

BROOD

By Jackie Polzin

*THE KNOCKOUT
QUEEN*

By Rufi Thorpe

*BECOMING DUCHESS
GOLDBLATT*

By Anonymous

FALLOUT

By Lesley M.M. Blume

REMEMBER THIS

By Alexandra Oliva

I GIVE IT TO YOU

By Valerie Martin

IN PARIS

By Jane Smiley

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SAVANNAH*

By George Dawes Green

RESPECTING THE MIC

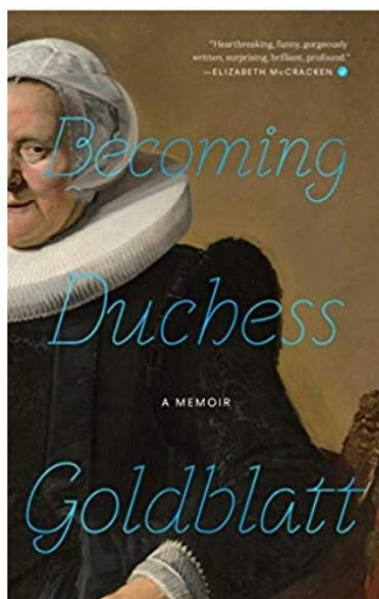
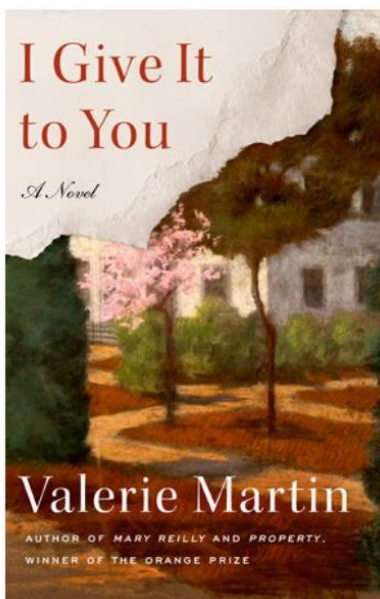
Edited by Hanif Abdurraqib, Franny Choi,
Dan "Sully" Sullivan, & Peter Kahn

TAKING THE REINS

By Jane Smiley

RUFF VS FLUFF

By Spencer Quinn



Film & Television Updates

THE CHET & BERNIES SERIES (DOG ON IT): This canine-narrated noir mystery series, currently in its 10th installment, has recently been optioned by a major TV network with Carol Mendelsohn, the creator of the 16 year *CSI* franchise, attached to write and produce.

MY NAME IS LUCY BARTON: Following a sold out and critically beloved first run, *and* a revival, the theatrical adaptation of Elizabeth Strout's recent novel is in its final days of a smash hit Broadway run, where it opened to reviews that proclaimed Laura Linney's performance a "tour de force" (Chicago Tribune) and observed that "Linney and Strout are almost seamlessly well-matched." (New York Times)

THE RETURN: Pitched as *Sex and the City* meets *The Shining*, this genre-bending debut novel from Rachel Harrison is currently in development as a TV series (details to follow public announcement). Berkley will publish in hardcover on March 24th (Publisher controls translation rights).

DONNA HAS LEFT THE BUILDING: Susan Jane Gilman's rowdy, big-hearted second novel is now in development for a TV series with a fierce team of female creatives attached, including a Director, an Executive Producer and a Writer, with details to follow. (Published by Grand Central, who controls translation rights)

THE LATE BLOOMER'S REVOLUTION: This memoir by Amy Cohen was originally published by Hyperion Books in 2007, and an excerpt was published in the *NYT's Modern Love* column that same year. Last April, the *Modern Love* excerpt was broadcast as a podcast episode with Natasha Lyonne (*Russian Doll*) narrating; it has now been optioned by Amazon Studios for possible inclusion in future seasons of their network series, *Modern Love*.

JUST DON'T FALL: Josh Sundquist wrote this memoir for adults, which was published by Viking in 2010, and then followed it with another memoir (this one for YA readers) which was published by Little Brown Books for Kids in 2014. The two memoirs are now in development as a TV series under the title "Just Don't Fall" with a major streaming network (details to follow).

ADULT FICTION & NONFICTION

BEE MUSIC

Eileen Garvin (Dutton)

Germany (TK)

Holland (HarperCollins Holland)

Film/TV agent: Dana Spector at CAA

Alice Holtzman is demographically unfashionable: middle-aged, childless, introverted, and more concerned with a job well done than how she looks doing it. After the sudden death of her husband, she starts having panic attacks. It's in the grips of one of these attacks that she hits Jake—a troubled, paraplegic teenager with the tallest mohawk in the Pacific Northwest—with her pickup truck. Oh, and did we mention that truck was full of 120,000 restless honeybees?

Everyone is surprised when Alice lets Jake move onto her farm, and even more surprised when she hires Harry, a bumbling twenty-something with a troubled past, to help her with her apiary. When a nefarious pesticide company threatens the local honeybee population, this unlikely trio unites to defend the bees, and, in the process, forge a path out of their respective griefs.

With a strong beating heart like that of Vanessa Diffenbaugh's *THE LANGUAGE OF FLOWERS*, *BEE MUSIC* is about the families we choose for ourselves. The book's earnestness is tempered by the real pain that the characters feel, and the ways they come together is like a template for healing. Eileen Garvin is a masterful storyteller and it's impossible not to root for dear Alice, Jake, and Harry!

BROOD

Jackie Polzin (Doubleday/Spring 2021)

UK (Picador)

In the first debut novel auction of the year, BROOD has found its home with Doubleday, following an auction between eight publishers. Jackie Polzin's literary debut follows an unnamed narrator's stubborn attempt to keep her small brood of four chickens alive and safe over the course of one savage winter in Minnesota. Woefully unprepared for the task, she battles the relentless predators, severe weather and unforeseen bad luck—all the while grieving a recent miscarriage, and coming to terms with her infertility and the accompanying uncertainty that her future holds.

There is a brutal beauty to this novel, brought into crisp focus by Polzin's dazzling prose. In its way of braiding grief with the care of birds, BROOD has drawn comparisons to H IS FOR HAWK, while Polzin's prose has been likened to Rachel Cusk, Jenny Offill, and to Lucia Berlin, with whom she shares an appraising eye and a disarming sense of humor.

Jackie Polzin is a recent graduate of the Boise State MFA program, and she has studied under Emily Ruskovich, Brady Udall and Joy Williams, who have read and championed early versions of this novel. She currently lives in St. Paul, Minnesota with her husband and children. BROOD is her first novel.

THE KNOCKOUT QUEEN

Rufi Thorpe (Knopf / April 28th 2020)

Italy (Bollati Boringhieri)

Film/TV Agent: Brooke Ehrlich, Anonymous Content

A dazzling and darkly comic novel of love, violence, and friendship.

Bunny Lampert is the princess of North Shore—beautiful, tall, blond, with a rich real-estate-developer father and a swimming pool in her backyard. Michael—with a ponytail down his back and a septum piercing—lives with his aunt in the cramped stucco cottage next door. When Bunny catches Michael smoking in her yard, he discovers that her life is not as perfect as it seems. At six foot three, Bunny towers over their classmates. Even as she dreams of standing out and competing in the Olympics, she is desperate to fit in, to seem normal, and to get a boyfriend, all while hiding her father's escalating alcoholism.

Meanwhile, Michael has secrets of his own. At home and at school he pretends to be straight, but at night he meets men online for anonymous encounters that both thrill and scare him. When Michael falls in love for the first time, a vicious strain of gossip circulates and a terrible, brutal act becomes the defining feature of both his and Bunny's futures—and of their friendship. With storytelling as intoxicating as it is intelligent, Rufi Thorpe has created a tragic and unflinching portrait of identity, a fascinating examination of our struggles to exist in our bodies, and an excruciatingly beautiful story of two humans aching for connection.

RUFITHORPE is the author of three novels. Her first, *The Girls from Corona del Mar*, was long-listed for the 2014 International Dylan Thomas Prize and for the 2014 Flaherty-Dunnán First Novel Prize, and became a National Bestseller. She holds an MFA from the University of Virginia and lives in California with her husband and sons.

Advance Praise for THE KNOCKOUT QUEEN:

"Fearless, tender, and savagely alive, THE KNOCKOUT QUEEN is unlike anything you'll read this year. Rufi Thorpe's third novel is about unruly thoughts and unruly bodies, about violence and love, about doing the wrong thing for the right reasons and the drag of human being. You won't be able to look away. You might even recognize yourself."—**Chloe Benjamin**, best-selling author of THE IMMORTALISTS

"THE KNOCKOUT QUEEN is an intense, unflinching examination of friendship, the threads that connect us in such strange ways. Rufi Thorpe navigates this difficult terrain thanks to a masterful use of detail and a wonderfully dark sense of humor that lands at just the right moment. Michael and Bunny are two of the most unique characters I've ever met, drawn with such precision that it's impossible to leave them behind. This is a hypnotic, beautiful novel, and Rufi Thorpe is an unbelievably unique talent."

—**Kevin Wilson**, best-selling author of NOTHING TO SEE HERE

"Holy Shit. I loved THE KNOCKOUT QUEEN. A blistering, brilliant look at friendship and violence, suburbia and class, all told by one of the most observant, engaging narrators I've read in a very long time. This book is going to stay with me."—**Grant Ginder**, author of HONESTLY, WE MEANT WELL AND THE PEOPLE WE HATE AT THE WEDDING

“Is it cheesy to say *THE KNOCKOUT QUEEN* knocked me off my feet? I couldn’t put it down, and when I had to, I did so only reluctantly, shakily. With unrelenting humor and terrifying intelligence, Ruffi Thorpe tells the story of an unlikely high school friendship—the kind of friendship from which you never recover—with intensity and attentiveness. This captivating, generous book is a moving examination on human motivation, darkness, and love—calling attention to the ways we can be deeply different, and yet so much the same.”—**Rachel Khong**, author of *GOODBYE, VITAMIN*

“Ruffi Thorpe writes with a savage, clear-eyed calm that is frighteningly good. *THE KNOCKOUT QUEEN* unsettled me in the most delicious way with its complex and satisfying relationships and meditation on violence, beauty, and privilege. Read it!!”—**Jade Chang**, author of *THE WANGS VS. THE WORLD*

"Brilliantly constructed and beautifully told, threaded with heartbreak, honesty and hope, *THE KNOCKOUT QUEEN* is a sublime coming of age story and Ruffi Thorpe is a national treasure."—**Cynthia Sweeney**, best-selling author of *THE NEST*

BECOMING DUCHESS GOLDBLATT*

Anonymous (Houghton Mifflin Harcourt / July 2020)

*Publisher holds world English rights

Film/TV Agent: Kim Yau, Paradigm

“The only way to be reliably sure that the hero gets the girl at the end of the story is to be both the hero and the girl yourself.”—Duchess Goldblatt

Chosen as one of The New York Times’ [“20 Books We’re Watching For in 2020”](#)! Part memoir and part joyful romp through the fields of imagination, the story behind a beloved pseudonymous Twitter account reveals how a writer deep in grief rebuilt a life worth living.

BECOMING DUCHESS GOLDBLATT is two stories: that of the reclusive real-life writer who created a fictional character out of loneliness and thin air, and that of the magical Duchess Goldblatt herself, a bright light in the darkness of social media. Fans around the world are drawn to Her Grace’s voice, her wit, her life-affirming love for all humanity, and the fun and friendship of the community that’s sprung up around her.

@DuchessGoldblatt brought people together in her name: in bookstores, museums, concerts, and coffee shops, and along the way, brought real friends home—foremost among them, Lyle Lovett.

DUCHESS GOLDBLATT, 81, is the inspirational author of AN AXE TO GRIND; FEASTING ON THE CARCASSES OF MY ENEMIES: A LOVE STORY; and the heartwarming meditation on mothers and daughters NOT IF I KILL YOU FIRST. A cultural icon, trophy ex-wife, friend to all humanity, and sponsor of the prestigious Goldblatt Prize in Fiction, she lives in Crooked Path, NY. She’s fictional but her love is real.

ANONYMOUS, the real-life person in whose mind Duchess Goldblatt lives and flourishes, has gathered all available truth and beauty for these pages. There’s nothing else to give.

Advance Praise for BECOMING DUCHESS GOLDBLATT:

"This book is, like Duchess Goldblatt herself, nothing you expect and everything you need. It's a memoir not just of one life (failures and triumphs laid bare) but also of a second self—its creation, its evolution, its improbable splendor. We may never deserve Duchess Goldblatt and her magnanimity, but her inventor most certainly does."—**Rebecca Makkai**, author of THE GREAT BELIEVERS

“After reading this unforgettable memoir, I figured out who Duchess Goldblatt is: all of us. Behind her brilliantly witty and uplifting message is a remarkable vulnerability and candor that reminds us that we are not alone in our struggles—and that we can, against all odds, get through them. As though casting a magic spell on her readers, she moves, inspires, and connects us through her unvarnished humanity. It was, for this therapist, a form of therapy I didn't know I needed. .”— **Lori Gottlieb**, author of MAYBE YOU SHOULD TALK TO SOMEONE

“The question I am most often asked by readers out in the world, is, ‘Who is Duchess Goldblatt?’ The correct answer is, ‘She is the Universe’s secret admirer, a made-up & hilarious octogenarian who lives on Twitter, who delivers love and demands it in equal, astonishing measure.’ What they mean is: what’s her real identity? This book does not precisely reveal that. Instead it’s the actual memoir of a fictional person, a

meditation on what it means to start again in the oddest way possible. It is also heartbreaking, funny, gorgeously written, surprising, brilliant, profound, the book only Duchess Goldblatt herself could have written.”—**Elizabeth McCracken**, author of THUNDERSTRUCK and BOWLAWAY

“What an unexpected marvel of a book, funny and poignant and—dare I say— sweet. It’s fashionable to bash social media, but without, we wouldn’t have Duchess and that would be a damn shame. .”— **Laura Lippman**, author of LADY IN THE LAKE

FALLOUT

Lesley M. M. Blume (Simon & Schuster / August 2020)

UK/ANZ (Text)

Film/TV Agent: Howie Sanders, Anonymous Content

New York Times bestselling author Lesley M.M. Blume reveals how a courageous reporter uncovered one of the greatest and deadliest cover-ups of the 20th century—the true effects of the atom bomb—potentially saving millions of lives.

In the days following the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, the Japanese surrendered unconditionally. But even before the surrender, the US had begun a secret propaganda campaign to celebrate these weapons as the ultimate peacekeepers—hiding the true extent and nature of their devastation. The cover-up intensified as Americans closed the atomic cities to Allied reporters, preventing information from leaking about the horrific and lasting effects of radiation which would kill thousands of people during the months after the blast. For nearly a year the cover-up worked—until New Yorker journalist John Hersey got into Hiroshima and reported the truth to the world.

As Hersey and his editors prepared his article for publication, they kept the whistleblowing story secret—even from most of their New Yorker colleagues. When the magazine published “Hiroshima” in August, 1946, it became an instant global sensation, and inspired pervasive horror about the weapons that had been covertly waged in America’s name. Since 1945, no nuclear weapons have ever been deployed in war in part because Hersey alerted the world to their true, devastating impact. This knowledge has remained among the greatest deterrents to using them since the end of World War II.

Released on the 75th anniversary of the Hiroshima bombing, *Fallout* is an engrossing detective story, as well as an important piece of hidden history that shows how one heroic scoop saved—and can still save—the world.

LESLEY M. M. BLUME is the New York Times bestselling author of *EVERYBODY BEHAVES BADLY* (“[A] must-read” –Harper’s Bazaar) and an award-winning journalist, reporter, and cultural historian. She contributes regularly to *VANITY FAIR* and the *WALL STREET JOURNAL*, and her work has appeared in *VOGUE*, *TOWN & COUNTRY*, and *DEPARTURES*, among other publications. She holds honors degrees in history from Williams College and Cambridge University. Blume lives in New York and Los Angeles with her husband and daughter.

REMEMBER THIS

Alexandra Oliva (Ballantine / Spring 2021)

Czech Republic (Euromedia)

Film/TV Agent: Dana Spector, CAA

A page-turning story of survival, but also a commentary on how we grow and reinvent ourselves in this overly connected, digital age.

A woman whose name shouldn't be Linda lives in a city she can't stand, her every movement tracked by her father, a reluctant but duty-bound protector who was horrified to learn of her existence 14 years earlier, when Linda emerged from the woods as a feral child.

She'd been raised in total isolation by her brilliant but dangerously unhinged mother, who birthed her in a grief-ridden attempt to replace her deceased firstborn daughter. The internet obsessed over Linda's sudden appearance, labeling her #CloneGirl. The misnomer haunts Linda still, and as an adult, she struggles to interact with people and strives to lead a quiet life.

And then a new neighbor moves in and changes everything. For the first time, Linda sees the potential of true friendship, and through her neighbor is drawn into the escapism of virtual reality. But just as she's easing into a new sense of belonging, Linda is kidnapped and taken to a remote location where she will ultimately be forced to confront the truth of her traumatic past.

REMEMBER THIS is a wrenching portrait of parental grief, a daring proposal on how memory functions, and an examination of whom we trust with our own histories.

ALEXANDRA OLIVA is the author of the novel THE LAST ONE, which is currently in development for TV. She has a BA in history from Yale University and an MFA from The New School. She lives in the Pacific Northwest with her family.

Praise for THE LAST ONE:

"[Alexandra] Oliva brilliantly scrutinizes the recorded (and heavily revised) narratives we believe, and **the last one hundred pages will have the reader constantly guessing** just what Zoo is capable of doing to find her way back home."—WASHINGTON POST

"A **high-concept, high-octane** affair . . . The conceit is undoubtedly clever and . . . well executed."—THE GUARDIAN

"The TV show *Survivor* meets Cormac McCarthy's *The Road* in Oliva's stellar debut. . . . Fueled by **brilliantly intimate and insightful writing** as well as an **endearing and fully realized female lead**, this apocalyptic novel draws its power from Zoo's realizations about society and herself as she struggles to survive."—PUBLISHERS WEEKLY (starred review)

"THE LAST ONE seamlessly melds two of our contemporary obsessions—the threat of global catastrophe and the staged drama of reality TV—into a **fiercely imagined tale of the human psyche under stress**. This is **an uncompromising, thought-provoking debut**."—Justin Cronin, author of THE PASSAGE

I GIVE IT TO YOU

Valerie Martin (Nan A. Talese / August 2020)

UK/ANZ (Serpent's Tail)

“Do you like it?” she said. ‘I give it to you.’”

American novelist Jan Vidor arrives at Villa Chiara in Tuscany intent on learning Italian, touring the hill towns, and casting about for a subject for her next book. Jan is well acquainted with the unwelcome effusions of strangers who offer their personal histories for her fiction. But in their first meeting, her aristocratic landlord Beatrice Salviati Doyle makes a passing remark about violent events at the villa during World War II, and Jan finds herself wanting to know more. Further conversations reveal Beatrice to be a complicated woman with a knack for telling stories about the past. Routinely, and then vehemently, Jan takes notes. Soon she is investigating leads like a detective, documenting the decline of a once powerful family through the vicissitudes of two wars and three generations.

As Jan reconstructs the past, Beatrice is absorbed in securing the future of the family estate. What neither of them knows is that behind the bucolic scrim of daily life at the villa, a plot is being hatched that will deal the final death blow to the Salviati patrimony.

For Jan, her friend’s family history is an irresistible account of class struggle; it’s a story she wants to tell. It doesn’t occur to her that Beatrice regrets having told it, or that she might consider Jan’s version a betrayal of trust. Isn’t stealing other people’s lives the business of a novelist? Jan has no illusions about the answer to this question. It’s yes. It’s always yes.

VALERIE MARTIN is the author of twelve novels, including TRESPASS, MARY REILLY (a major motion picture starring Julia Roberts), and PROPERTY, four collections of short fiction, and a biography of St. Francis of Assisi . She has been awarded numerous prizes for her work, including the Kafka Prize (for MARY REILLY) and Britain’s Orange Prize (for PROPERTY.) She resides in Connecticut and is currently Professor of English at Mt. Holyoke College.

IN PARIS

Jane Smiley (Knopf/Fall 2020)

From the Pulitzer Prize-winning author of A THOUSAND ACRES and the New York Times best-selling LAST HUNDRED YEARS TRILOGY, a captivating, brilliantly imaginative story of three extraordinary animals—and a little boy—whose lives intersect in Paris.

Paras is a spirited young racehorse living at a stable in the French countryside. One afternoon she pushes open the gate of her stall—she’s a curious filly—and, after traveling through the night, arrives by chance in Paris. She's dazzled, and often mystified, by the sights, sounds and smells around her, but she isn't afraid. Soon she meets an elegant dog, a German shorthair pointer named Frida, who knows how to get by in the city without attracting the attention of suspicious Parisians. Paras and Frida coexist for a time in the city’s lush green spaces, nourished by Frida's strategic trips to the butchery and the bakery. They keep company with two irrepressible ducks, and by an opinionated crow. But then Paras meets a human boy, Etienne, and discovers a new, otherworldly part of Paris: the secluded, ivy-walled house where the boy and his nearly-one-hundred-year-old great grandmother live, quietly and unto themselves. As the cold weather and Christmas near, the unlikeliest of friendships bloom among humans and animals alike. But how long can a runaway horse live undiscovered in Paris? And how long can a boy keep her hidden, and all his own? Jane Smiley’s beguiling new novel is itself an adventure that celebrates curiosity and ingenuity, and expresses the desire of all creatures for true friendship, love, and freedom.

JANE SMILEY is the author of numerous novels, including A THOUSAND ACRES, which was awarded the Pulitzer Prize, and most recently, SOME LUCK, EARLY WARNING, and GOLDEN AGE. She is also the author of several works of nonfiction and books for young adults. A member of the American Academy of Arts and Letters, she has also received the PEN Center USA Lifetime Achievement Award for Literature. She lives in Northern California.

THE BOOK OF BENNY OH Ruth Ozeki (Viking)

Reading materials will be available May/June 2020.

A masterful, genre-bending new novel of inter-linked narratives from the Man Booker-shortlisted and international-bestselling author of A TALE FOR THE TIME BEING, Ruth Ozeki.

“A book must start somewhere. One brave letter must volunteer to go first, laying itself on the line in an act of faith, from which a word takes heart and follows, drawing a sentence into its wake. A book must start somewhere, and this one starts here...”

So begins THE BOOK OF BENNY OH, where we encounter the tragic and utterly avoidable death of young Benny’s father, who leaves Benny and his mother Annabelle reeling from the shock and pain of such an untimely loss. To cope, Annabelle immerses herself in a job that allows her to work from home and keep an eye on Benny, but what begins as work quickly becomes an obsession for Annabelle, and the news clippings she is supposed to aggregate for her company pile up around their home until Benny can scarcely move from room to room. Meanwhile, Benny has begun to hear voices, many of them generated by the vast piles of paper and books that his mother refuses to part with. Narrated by both Benny and the book itself, THE BOOK OF BENNY OH is a story that interrogates space in much the same way that A TALE FOR THE TIME BEING interrogated time: with characters who are deeply human, a structure that is both wildly ambitious and essential to its power, and always at its core, informed by Ozeki’s compassion and philosophical curiosity.

Option publishers:

**UK/Canongate; Israel/Am Oved; France/Editions Belfond; Italy/Salani;
Canongate controls all other territories; sold in 25 countries.**

SATELLITE LOVE

Genki Ferguson (McClelland & Stewart/PRH Canada)

Film/TV agent: Ellen Goldsmith-Vein at Gotham Group

Reading materials will soon be available (April 2020) for this stunning and unusual debut, sold at auction during Summer 2019.

Anna Obata is a biracial teenager living in economically depressed Southern Japan just before the millennium. Left to fend for herself (and to look after her increasingly senile Grandfather) Anna copes with her devastating loneliness by calling upon her strongest inner resource: imagination. This is the story of girl who falls in love with a satellite, yes—but it is also the story of how the human mind attempts to repair itself, no matter the cost, no matter the odds. Told in alternating perspectives by Anna, the satellite, and several others, SATELLITE LOVE is exquisitely strange and refreshingly unconventional.

Genki Ferguson was born in New Brunswick, Canada to a family of authors (his father is author Will Ferguson), and grew up reading Murakami. He spent much of his childhood in the subtropical island of Kyushu, Japan, where his mother's family still resides. Fluent in Japanese and capable of making a decent sushi roll, Genki was also the recipient of the 2017 Helen Pitt Award for visual arts and is finishing a degree in Film Production, while working part-time at Book Warehouse, an indie store in Vancouver.

Advance Praise for SATELLITE LOVE:

“SATELLITE LOVE is one of those rare and affecting novels that will leave you breathless, charmed, and deeply thoughtful. A beautiful rumination on sentience, imagination, impermanence and friendship, Genki Ferguson has written a story that lives on the precarious and satisfying edge of melancholy and exuberance.” — **Ruth Ozeki**, international bestselling author of A TALE FOR THE TIME BEING

THE KINGDOM OF SAVANNAH George Dawes Green (Celadon)

When matriarch Morgana Musgrove calls upon her prodigal son Ransom to help her with a case, the defunct M. Musgrove & Family Detective Agency is back in business, albeit reluctantly. Tensions rise between the Musgroves and whispers of a mysterious lost “Kingdom”—descendants of the African-American soldiers who fought for King George, and afterwards formed a secret community, refusing to return to slavery—float in the sultry Savannah night. The family of investigators creeps closer and closer to exposing the city’s seedy underbelly, and a depraved history that a powerful few are determined to keep hidden, no matter the cost...

GEORGE DAWES GREEN is the New York Times bestselling author of *THE CAVEMAN’S VALENTINE* (which won the Edgar for Best First Novel), *THE JUROR* and *RAVENS*. His first two novels were major motion pictures, with *CAVEMAN’S VALENTINE* starring Samuel L. Jackson and *THE JUROR* starring Demi Moore and Alec Baldwin. His third novel, *RAVENS*, is currently on the cusp of going into production (location scouting is underway) with Adam Driver and Oscar Isaacs attached to star. Green is the founder of The Moth, a nonprofit group devoted to the art and craft of storytelling that aims to remind people of their shared humanity through personal stories. The Moth podcast now boasts 52 million downloads each year.

Praise for *THE CAVEMAN’S VALENTINE*:

“Nothing short of **brilliant.**” – **LOS ANGELES TIMES**

“**Amplitude, great vocal agility, profound subject matter, wit, and that gruff riskful way with language...** George Dawes Green has a great feel for what the American novel should be, and he isn’t intimidated by it.” – **NEW YORK TIMES BOOK REVIEW**

“**Mesmerizing.**” – **SAN FRANCISCO CHRONICLE**

BOOKS FOR YOUNG READERS

RESPECTING THE MIC*

Edited by Hanif Abdurraqib, Franny Choi, Dan "Sully" Sullivan, and Peter Kahn (Penguin Workshop/Summer 2021)

***Publisher has World English rights**

Sold at auction and already met with unbridled enthusiasm from the poetry community, RESPECTING THE MIC is an anthology of new poems from the students and alumni of the Spoken Word Club. Founded two decades ago by Oak Park River Forest High School teacher, Peter Kahn, the club has changed the trajectory of thousands of students' lives. Peter made the simple yet groundbreaking decision to bring poetry slams into his classroom and saw introverts and reluctant learners turn into youth poet laureates (Kara Jackson), NBA basketball players (Iman Shumpert), and comedy stars (Langston Kerman). No less important are the many obstacles that the Spoken Word Club urged its members to confront - abuse, mental health, sexuality and identity crises, incarcerated parents, bullying... the list, unfortunately, goes on.

With a foreword written by Pulitzer Prize-winning poet Tyehimba Jess, RESPECTING THE MIC will interweave the club's extraordinary story with poetry, and offer a guide to teachers in how to incorporate spoken word into the school culture. Peter's model has been the focus of many conferences and university lectures. To quote Eve Ewing, "poets I know sometimes joke that the poetry club at Oak Park River Forest High School is the best MFA in the Chicagoland area. Like all good jokes, this one is dead serious."

HANIF ABDURRAQIB is the New York Times-bestselling and National Book Award Longlisted poet, critical essayist, and author of THE CROWN AIN'T WORTH MUCH, THEY CAN'T KILL US UNTIL THEY KILL US, GO AHEAD IN THE RAIN, and A FORTUNE FOR YOUR DISASTER.

FRANNY CHOI is a Korean-American queer writer and poet, whose work focuses on social activism and equality. She is the author of two poetry collections, SOFT SCIENCE (Alice James Books, 2019) and FLOATING, BRILLIANT, GONE (Write Bloody Publishing, 2014) and the co-host of Poetry Foundations VS series.

DAN "SULLY" SULLIVAN is the founder of the Urban Sandbox, an all ages poetry event curated entirely by high school students in Chicago currently entering its 15th year. He has appeared on HBO Def Poetry Jam, WGN Morning News, and National Public Radio, and is a three-time Chicago Poetry Slam Champion, a recipient of The Gwendolyn Brooks Open Mic Poetry Award, the Earl S Ho Award for Excellence in Teaching Creative Writing, and an Indiana University Writer in South Asia Recipient.

PETER KAHN co-edited THE GOLDEN SHOVEL ANTHOLOGY: NEW POEMS HONORING GWENDOLYN BROOKS. He has been a Keynote Speaker for the NCTE annual convention, featured in the award-winning documentary *Louder Than a Bomb* and the Steve James' Starz series, *America to Me*. Kahn has been a workshop leader for Jonathan Reynolds Young Writers Workshop at Denison University, the Poetry Foundation's Chicago Summer Teacher Institute and

Miami Teacher Institute. He recently was named runner-up in the 2019 NCTE and Penguin Random House Maya Angelou Teacher Award for Poetry.

Praise for RESPECTING THE MIC:

"What a book! This magnificent trove of powerful voices makes us sit up straight again, feel proud to be alive. [...]Look no further, dear teachers, if you are needing support for inclusion of poetry in your classrooms - the reasons are here, and they are many."— **Naomi Shihab Nye, Poetry Editor for The New York Times**

"This anthology feels like a living, breathing thing. The scope and depth of Oak Park's program— and of poetry's ability to transform writers and readers alike — are palpable in these pages." — **Tavi Gevinson, writer, magazine editor, and actress**

"This anthology holds twenty years of evidence of the power of poetry. I saw proof with my own eyes when I visited the tremendous young poets of Oak Park. I have continued encountering the poets in these pages on television, on basketball courts and on poetry stages across the nation.[...] This is a primer for the next twenty years of great poems and poets."
— **Terrance Hayes, National Book Award-winning poet**

TAKING THE REINS

Jane Smiley (Knopf Books for Young Readers / March 10 2020)

UK/ANZ (Scholastic)

Film/TV Agent: Lynn Pleshette

A young rider encounters well-known horses and new friends in the final installment of the Ellen & Ned trilogy by Pulitzer Prize winner Jane Smiley.

Ellen's family has moved to a new town...but some things, like her love for horses, remain the same. Ellen is now the proud owner of her own horse, Tater. She's learning new skills and challenging herself as a rider...but she still can't stop thinking about Ned, the feisty former racehorse she sees on the ranch during her lessons.

In the meantime, Ellen's making new friends and encountering old ones. Most exciting of all is Da, a boy from a riding family who is possessed of a spirit of mischief and daring and knows his own mind.

Ellen still has a lot to learn...about horses, friendship, and herself. And will she *ever* be able to get Ned off her mind?

RUFF VS FLUFF

Spencer Quinn (Scholastic / March 2019)

UK/ANZ (Scholastic); Russia (Eksmo)

Film/TV Agent: Sylvie Rabineau, WME

A cat and dog do the impossible: team up to solve a murder!

From the outside, Queenie the cat and Arthur the dog appear to have a lot in common. Both pets live in the charming Blackberry Hill inn. They both love their humans, twins Harmony and Bro. They both have a fondness for sausage.

But that doesn't change the fact that they are mortal enemies.

Goofy, big-hearted Arthur loves everyone he's ever met . . . except the snobby, scheming cat who's devoted her life to ruining his.

Queenie is a bit choosier. And who can blame her? When you're brilliant AND exquisitely beautiful, you can't be expected to rub tails with commoners. Especially not slobbery dogs.

But when the twins' beloved uncle is framed for murder, Queenie and Arthur must work together to clear his name . . . something Queenie finds even more distasteful than inexpensive caviar. Can two enemies put aside their differences long enough to solve the mystery?

SPENCER QUINN the author of the *New York Times*-bestselling Chet and Bernie mystery books and the stand-alone novel *The Right Side*, both for adults. His novels for kids include the New York Times bestselling Bowser and Birdie novel, *Woof*, and the follow-up, *Arf*, as well as the Edgar Award-nominated Echo Falls series. Spencer lives with his wife, Diana, and dogs, Audrey and Pearl, on Cape Cod, Massachusetts.

SELECTED WORLD RIGHTS TITLES

OLIVE, AGAIN

Elizabeth Strout (Random House / October 15th 2019)

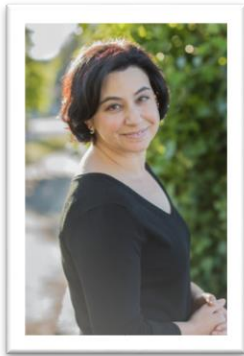
Film/TV Agent: Sylvie Rabineau, WME

UK/ANZ (Penguin UK); Germany (Random House); Italy (Giulio Einaudi); Spain (Duomo Ediciones); Catalan (Edicions de 1984); Portugal (Editora Schwarz); France (Editions Fayard); Ukraine (KM Books); Slovakia (ARThur s.r.o); Russia (Phantom Press); Poland (Wielka Litera); Holland (Uitgeverij); Denmark (Gyldendal); Sweden (Bokforlaget Forem/Bonnierforlagen); Norway (Forlaget Press); Finland (Tammi); Czech Republic (Jota Nakladatelství); Croatia (Profil Knjiga); Korea (Munhakdogne Publishing); Simplified Chinese (ThinKingdom Media Group)



NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER • OPRAH'S BOOK CLUB PICK •

Pulitzer Prize winner Elizabeth Strout continues the life of her beloved Olive Kitteridge, a character who has captured the imaginations of millions.



ONE TWO THREE

Laurie Frankel (Flatiron / Winter 2021)

Film/TV Agent: Dana Spector, CAA

By the author of the Reese's Book Club x Hello Sunshine Book Pick THIS IS HOW IT ALWAYS IS that has sold over a quarter of a million copies, comes a timely, topical novel about love and family that will make you laugh and cry and laugh again.

THE GRAMMARIANS

Cathleen Schine (Sarah Crichton Books/September 3rd 2019)

Film/TV Agent: Lucy Carson

Laurel and Daphne Wolfe, identical, inseparable redheaded twins, share an obsession with words. They speak a secret “twin” tongue of their own as toddlers; as adults making their way in 1980s Manhattan, their verbal infatuation continues, but this love, which has always bound them together, begins instead to push them apart when the sisters go to war, absurdly but passionately, over custody of their most prized family heirloom: *Merriam Webster's New International Dictionary, Second Edition*.

