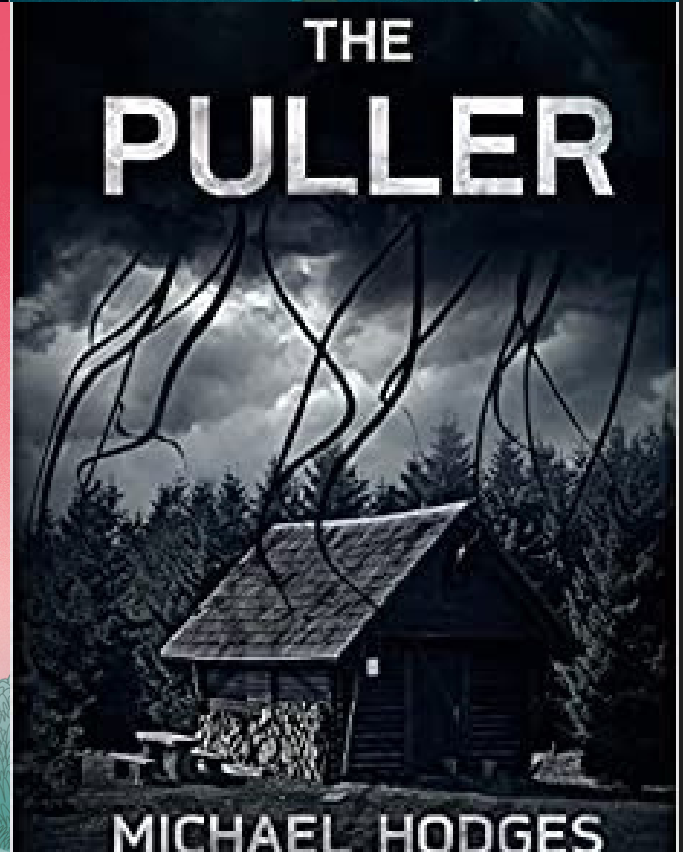
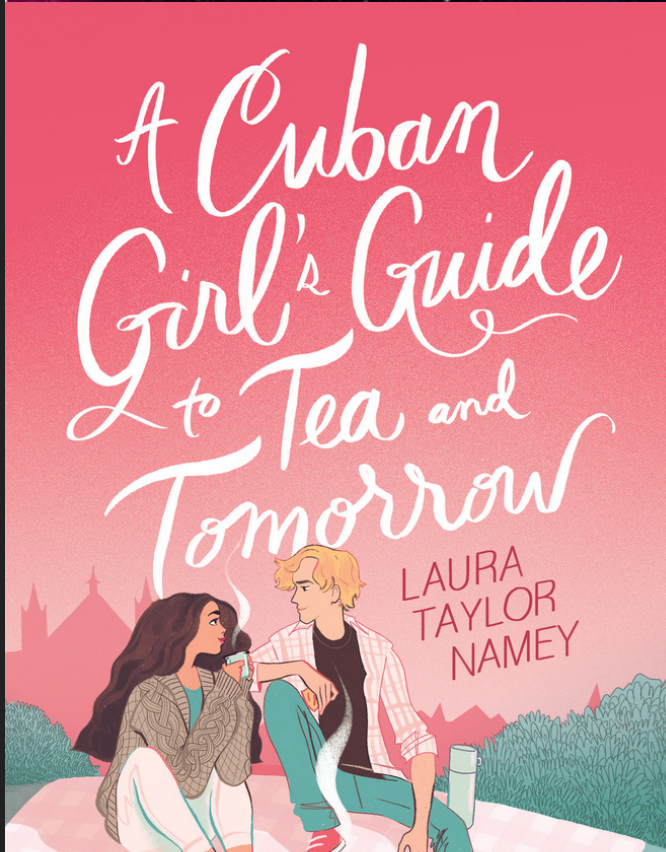
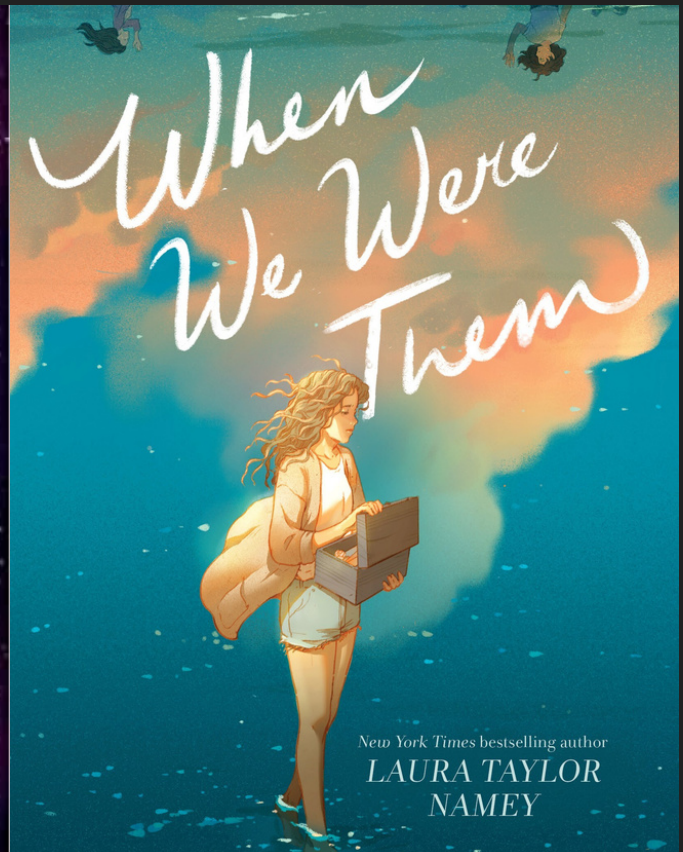
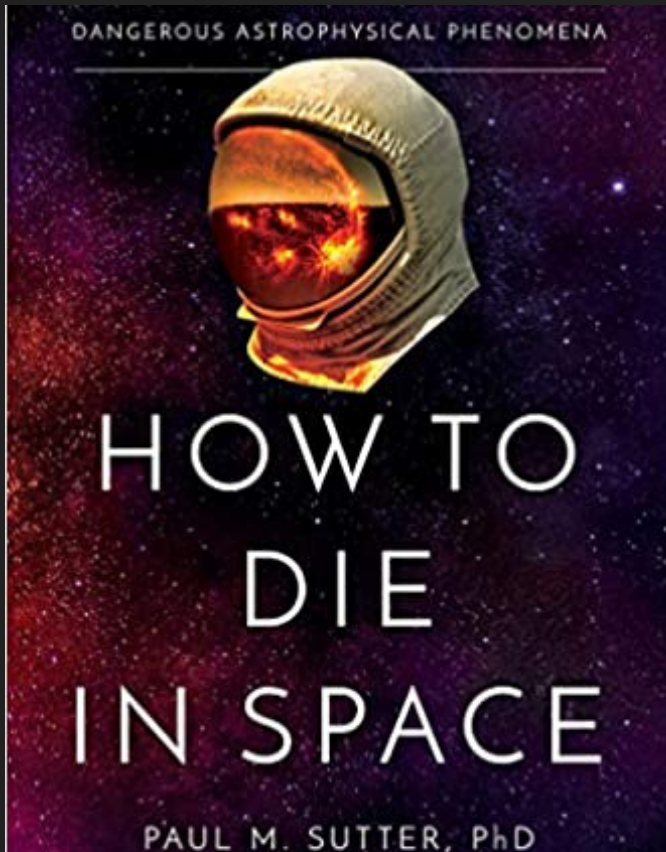


THE TOBIAS LITERARY AGENCY

WWW.THETOBIASAGENCY.COM





RIGHTS LIST

2021



THE TOBIAS LITERARY AGENCY

<https://www.thetobiasagency.com/>

Contact: Stefanie Rossitto

Stefanie@thetobiasagency.com



I. CURRENT TITLES:

Genre: NON-FICTION

Title/Author: HOW TO DIE IN SPACE by Paul Sutter

Rights: Translation Rights

Publisher/ Pub date: Pegasus Books, 6/2/20

Foreign Sales/ Film:

★ Foreign Sales: sold to China (ThinKingdom Media - simplified Chinese Characters)

Publicity:

"Sutter's tone is suffused with enthusiasm for his topic and with disarming humor. Funny and informative, Sutter's gleefully bleak interstellar survey will foster a greater appreciation for humanity's home, and a deeper understanding of space." **(Publishers Weekly (starred))**

"Sutter's macabre humor and lucid science writing make this an entertaining read with mass appeal." **(Kirkus Reviews)**

"The tongue-in-cheek alarmist tone offsets Sutter's deep fascination, and his joy of discovery is infectious. This accessible overview of our bizarre universe will encourage readers to delve deeper and learn more." **(Booklist)**



Publicity for Paul's first book *YOUR PLACE IN THE UNIVERSE: UNDERSTANDING OUR BIG, MESSY EXISTENCE* (11/18) include:

"This excellent resource celebrates the wonders of space. Sutter's brisk, often humorous writing and gift for clear explanations make this the perfect choice for readers looking to understand the universe on scales both human and cosmic." — **Publishers Weekly**
STARRED Review

*"Never before has the story of the universe been so accessible. Paul M. Sutter's *Your Place in the Universe* brings the cosmos down to earth and shows that you don't have to be an astrophysicist to enjoy the wonder of it all."* — **Tariq Malik, managing editor, Space.com**

"Sutter always does a fantastic job of explaining the most complicated concepts and discoveries in an easily understandable way. He's the perfect guide to help you find your place in the universe." — **Fraser Cain, publisher of Universe Today**

"Imagine sitting around a campfire with an astrophysicist who doesn't just recount the history of cosmology, but also answers your questions. He puts them in context, and he is always understandable and never condescending. This is a wonderful read for those who are curious about big ideas—it's definitely not your daddy's intro astronomy book." — **Seth Shostak, senior astronomer, SETI Institute**

"What a marvelous book! Sutter delights in hosing down the gory details of our inscrutable, existential place in the universe. Using pithy humor, inspired analogies, and a turbo turn of phrase, he deftly deconstructs the inner workings of everything from dark energy and black holes to stellar evolution and ultimate cosmological fate. His articulate, unorthodox style will have you smiling blithely all the way to the heat death of the universe." — **Jeff Kanipe, author of *The Cosmic Connection: How Astronomical Events Impact Life on Earth***



Summary:

For those who want to know how the universe works, Paul M. Sutter is a new, fresh voice in science communication. An astrophysicist, author, speaker, producer, and on-air host everywhere from podcasts to TV, Paul strives to bring science to new audiences. By breaking down formidable concepts, emphasizing the human and artistic aspects of the scientific process, and making science accessible with his characteristic conversational, humorous approach, Paul is the one and only Agent to the Stars!

A brilliant and breathtakingly vivid tour of the universe, describing the physics of the dangerous, the deadly, and the scary in the cosmos.

So you've fallen in love with space and now you want to see it for yourself, huh? You want to witness the birth of a star, or visit the black hole at the center of our galaxy? You want to know if there are aliens out there, or how to travel through a wormhole? You want the wonders of the universe revealed before your very eyes?

Well stop, because all that will probably kill you.

From mundane comets in our solar backyard to exotic remnants of the Big Bang, from dying stars to young galaxies, the universe may be beautiful, but it's treacherous. Through metaphors and straightforward language, it breathes life into astrophysics, unveiling how particles and forces and fields interplay to create the drama in the heavens above us.

About the Author

Paul Sutter received his PhD in Physics from the University of Illinois at Urbana---Champaign in 2011. His graduate work was supported by a prestigious fellowship in computational science from the Department of Energy. After spending three years at the Paris Institute of Astrophysics as the Postdoctoral Fellow in Next---Generation Cosmic Probes, he currently splits his time between a research fellowship based in Trieste, Italy and a Visiting Scholar position at The Ohio State University's Center for Cosmology and Astro-Particle Physics. Paul's own research covers a broad range of topics, including supermassive black holes, the emptiest regions of the cosmos, observations of earliest moments of the universe, and the detection of the first stars. He



has authored over 50 publications in academic journals, and continues to serve on grant committees and organize conferences.

Paul is known as Ohio State's "Agent to the Stars" and is a passionate and prominent advocate for science, known for breaking down complex subjects using fun metaphors and a touch of sarcastic humor. He hosts a podcast, "Ask a Spaceman!", where he answers questions posted on social media. Less than a year old, each bi-weekly episode draws over 5,000 downloads. His second podcast, "Realspace", features interviews discussing the lives of other young scientists in order to break down misconceptions. Paul is frequently quoted in newspapers and online articles, has appeared several times on radio, and has monthly TV appearances on Good Day Columbus.

Due to the popularity of his podcast, Paul was invited to become an Ohio State Faculty Expert, and is currently being marketed to national news networks to provide commentary on space and physics topics. He has also been invited to become a regular contributor to the Weekly Space Hangout, a popular podcast and YouTube series with an audience in the tens of thousands. Paul also is a contributor to Space.com, and one of his latest articles – about magnetars, a topic to be covered in the book – drew over 130,000 unique readers. Finally, Paul is actively engaged in several projects with National Geographic: he is the science consultant for a new TV series and is writing and starring in a new YouTube series currently in production.

All of Paul's academic and outreach activities are summarized at pmsutter.com.



Genre: YA/ NOVEL

Title/Author: THE CUBAN GIRL'S GUIDE TO TEA AND TOMORROW by Laura Taylor Namey

Rights: Translation Rights

Publisher/ Pub date: Atheneum Books for Young Readers, 11/10/20

Foreign Sales/Film:

Laura's first book THE LIBRARY OF LOST THINGS has been published in:

- Australia (HarperCollins Australia)
- Italy (HarperCollins Italia)
- Russia (Clever Publishing)
- UK (Harper360)

A CUBAN GIRL'S GUIDE TO TEA AND TOMORROW has been sold to:

- Brazil (Editora Alta Books)
- Russia (AST)
- Bulgaria (Egmont)

★ Film News: Optioned by Major Studio, announcement forthcoming

Publicity:

★ The NYT Bestseller List (Children's Young Adult Hardcover) #3 week of November 29th

★ Reese Witherspoon picked it for her November book club feature:

<https://www.instagram.com/p/CHa693WjZ6a/?igshid=1ftirfuyoly2c>



"(Namey) shines at characterization and portraying self-discovery . . . A heartwarming romance paired with a well-written setting add up to a satisfying read on multiple levels." -**Publisher's Weekly Starred Review**

"Part romance, part foodie heaven, the warm atmosphere will make readers want to cook and dance and love." -**Kirkus**

"This book has it all: the recipe for new, lasting, happy friendships, a dash of romance, and some gentle (albeit hard) lessons about honoring yourself and letting go of people as perspectives shift." -**Booklist**

"A CUBAN GIRL'S GUIDE TO TEA AND TOMORROW is an absolute delight. Cozier than a hand-knit gray cardigan, and richer than Abuela's pastelito recipe, Namey takes you from Miami to Winchester, and leaves your heart belonging to both. Best enjoyed with a steaming cup of your favorite signature tea." -**Rachael Lippincott, author of "Five Feet Apart"**

"This book. THIS BOOK. Laura Taylor Namey has written the coziest love story I've ever had the pleasure to read. I want to sit in Abuela's kitchen, wearing a hand-knit sweater and drinking my favorite tea while Lila and Orion take turns feeding my soul and filling my heart with their shared grief and sweetly blooming affection. Namey's prose left my heart fit to burst into a million starlit pieces scattered between Miami and Britain. Beautiful." -Erin Hahn, author of "You'd Be Mine" and "More Than Maybe"

"Warning: do not read while hungry. This delectable blend of romance and pastry across two continents filled me up and left me eager for more. I could live inside Laura Taylor



Namey's vibrant words forever. –Rachel Lynn Solomon, author of “Today, Tonight, Tomorrow”

“A CUBAN GIRL’S GUIDE TO TEA AND TOMORROW is bursting with love for home, family, and culture. An utterly charming read that feels like a treasured recipe that will heal and feed a broken heart. This is the ANNA AND THE FRENCH KISS of my Latinx dreams.”

–Nina Moreno, author of “Don’t Date Rosa Santos”

“A Cuban Girl’s Guide to Tea and Tomorrow is a tale so sweet, savory, and delightful that you’ll long to travel, bake, and believe in the possibilities of love.” –Margarita Engle, Newbery Honor-winning author of “The Surrender Tree” and Young People’s Poet Laureate Emeritus

www.thespinningpen.com/tag/laura-taylor-namey

https://www.buzzfeed.com/farahpenn/young-adult-books-fall-winter-2020?utm_source=dynamic&utm_campaign=bfsharetwitter

<https://www.laurataylornamey.com/books/a-cuban-girls-guide-to-tea-and-tomorrow/>

Summary:

Love & Gelato meets *Don’t Date Rosa Santos* in this charming, heartfelt story following a Miami girl who unexpectedly finds love—and herself—in a small English town.

For Lila Reyes, a summer in England was never part of the plan. The plan was 1) take over her abuela’s role as head baker at their panadería, 2) move in with her best friend after graduation, and 3) live happily ever after with her boyfriend. But then the Trifecta happened, and everything—including Lila herself—fell apart.

Worried about Lila’s mental health, her parents make a new plan for her: Spend three months with family friends in Winchester, England, to relax and reset. But with the lack of sun, a grumpy inn cook, and a small town lacking Miami flavor (both in food and



otherwise), what would be a dream trip for some feels more like a nightmare to Lila...until she meets Orion Maxwell.

A teashop clerk with troubles of his own, Orion is determined to help Lila out of her funk, and appoints himself as her personal tour guide. From Winchester's drama-filled music scene to the sweeping English countryside, it isn't long before Lila is not only charmed by Orion, but England itself. Soon a new future is beginning to form in Lila's mind—one that would mean leaving everything she ever planned behind.

About the Author:

Laura Taylor Namey is a Cuban-American Californian who can be found haunting her favorite coffee shops, drooling over leather jackets, and wishing she was in London or Paris. She lives in San Diego with her husband and two superstar children.

This former teacher writes young adult novels about quirky teens learning to navigate life and love. Her debut, *THE LIBRARY OF LOST THINGS*, published 10/08/19 from Inkyard Press/HarperCollins. Her #ownvoices sophomore project, *A CUBAN GIRL'S GUIDE TO TEA AND TOMORROW*, came out in November 2020 from Atheneum Simon and Schuster, with a third title to follow in fall 2021.

Website:

<https://www.laurataylornamey.com/>



Genre: HORROR

Title/Author: THE PULLER by Michael Hodges

Rights: Translation Rights

Publisher/ Pub date: Pyr, TK (movie tie-in edition)

Foreign Sales/Film:

Foreign Sales: Sold to Germany (Luzifer-Verlag)

★ Film News: optioned by Sonny Malihi (*The Strangers, The Dark and the Wicked*) and Zach Green (*The Obituary of Tunde Johnson*) with Sonny Malihi writing and directing. Production is slated for Spring/Summer 2021.

Publicity:

"The Puller delivers thrill after thrill as Matt and the mysterious creature engage in a deadly game of cat and mouse. Five out of five stars." - **SF Signal**

"It went from 'a little creepy' to 'Okay, run now you idiot!' with a swiftness I didn't expect." - **Sci-Fi and Scary**

"Hodges proves himself to be a master of foreshadowing and of connecting disparate strings of plot to weave an absolutely startling tale." - **James Robert Smith, author of THE FLOCK**

Summary:

Matt Kearns has two choices: fight or hide. The creature in the orchard took the rest. Three days ago, he arrived at his favorite place in the world, a remote shack in Michigan's Upper Peninsula. The plan was to mourn his father's death and figure out his life. Now he's fighting for it. An invisible creature has him trapped. Every time Matt tries



to flee, he's dragged backwards by an unseen force. Alone and with no hope of rescue, Matt must escape the Puller's reach. But how do you free yourself from something you cannot see?

About the Author/ website:

michaelhodesfiction.com/



II. Titles to come in 2021 and onwards

Genre: FANTASY/ SCI-FI

Title/Author: SMOKE AND OTHER STORMS by Jenaiya Ross (writing as J.L. Delavega)

Rights: Translation Rights

Publisher/ Pub date: City Owl Press - moved to 2022: tentative release date of 3/8/2022

Summary:

This is a Western-inspired fantasy featuring a cast of women who refuse to be seen as second class by the men who think they own everything.

Adelaide Revere and her family are outlaws. Having risen from indentured prostitutes they've become one of the most notorious gangs on the Rim, riding the rails, taking any job they like, and robbing the men they don't. To try and raise money for an operation to save the eyesight of one of Adelaide's sisters, the Reveres agree to guide an explorer and his survey crew to the West Rim—a the place where the edge of the map meets the end. Rumored to be the origin of the pestilence, a the blight which won the territory war for the Republic, but still lives within the earth, the West Rim is a treacherous desert concealing untapped riches.

About the Author:

SMOKE AND OTHER STORMS is Jenaiya's first novel. She began writing when she was five years old and now does freelance work. When not writing she studies martial arts and currently holds a brown belt in Taekwondo.



Genre: TRUE CRIME

Title/ Author: SWORN TO SILENCE: ROBERT GARROW, THE BURIED BODIES CASE, AND HOW IT CHANGED THE LEGAL SYSTEM FOREVER by Journalist Jim Tracy

Rights: Translation Rights

Publisher/ Pub date: Post Hill Press, 3/16/2021

Foreign Sales/Film:

Film News: ★ Optioned for film by the producer of the *Fargo TV* series.

Publicity:

"When I began working with Jim Tracy at the Glens Falls (N.Y.) Post-Star two decades ago, he was kicking around a project about Robert Garrow's reign of terror through the Adirondacks in the 1970s. A subsequent newspaper series was merely the appetizer to Sworn to Silence, a master class in reporting and storytelling that is equal parts labor of love and effort in excellence." -- Ryan O'Halloran, Sports Writer, **The Denver Post**

"As I worked construction on Lake George in the Adirondacks in the summer of 1973, I listened on radio for news of the manhunt for Robert Garrow. I've never forgotten the haunting feeling of knowing that random killer was loose in the mountains around me. It was like a living ghost story told around campfires at night. Jim Tracy had done an excellent job of filling out the story that is much more than the news bulletins and headlines of the day." -- Brian Rooney, former Correspondent, **ABC News**

"Like Watergate headlines and long lines at gas stations, this twisty, politically-tinged examination of the unsolved questions of the Missing Bodies case is redolent of the early 1970s. Tracy navigates this complex story brilliantly, leaving no stone unturned." -- John Temple, Author of "American Pain" and "Up in Arms"



Summary:

Journalist Jim Tracy has followed the life of rapist and serial killer Robert Garrow and his landmark case which rocked the legal system since.

In 1973 and in custody for the murder of an 18-year-old camper in the Adirondack Mountains, millwright Robert Garrow confessed to his attorneys, Frank Belge and Frank Armani, he killed the young man. He also confessed to a series of rapes and murders, even revealing where he hid the body of two victims. Girls whom police and families were desperate to find.

The full detailed account has never been told. Now, *Buried Bodies* expert Jim Tracy explores the case in full detail, linking Garrow to unsolved murders stretching as far north as Ontario, with never before heard interviews with the lawyers themselves and the cop who was determined to bring the victims' bodies home to their families.

About the Author:

Jim Tracy is a retired 30-year journalist who wrote for the Pulitzer Prize-winning *The Post-Star* and an expert on Robert Garrow and the Buried Bodies Case. Anytime there is mention of the case, between news articles and Hollywood interest, Jim is the first person they call.



Genre: HORROR

Title/ Author: SWITCHBOARD by Andrew Post

Rights: Translation Rights

Publisher/ Pub date: JournalStone, 2/28/2021

Publicity:

"Post creates moments of beauty, repulsion, and menace with equal flair."-- Publishers Weekly

www.kendallreviews.com/book-review-switchboard-andrew-post

www.fantasticfiction.com/p/andrew-post/switchboard.htm

www.hellnotes.com/advance-review-switchboard

Summary:

Narcotics detective Dwayne Spare has been on the hunt for the manufacturer of krokodil, the newest — and most addictive — drug for too long. And the last two raids have turned up nothing. When a tip on the drug manufacturer's whereabouts comes in, Dwayne strikes out on his own, afraid another raid will lead nowhere. Certain he can ingratiate himself into the crumbling building's denizens, Dwayne moves in to one of the apartments, expecting to find a typical drug den. But he finds something much worse:

Someone's experimenting on drug addicts, lulling them into a catatonic dream-state in hopes of contacting and drawing out an eldritch horror.

And now someone has their eyes on Dwayne... in this superbly dark and twisted thrill ride.

**About the Author:**

Andrew Post is a screenwriter and novelist. His novel AFTERTASTE was published by Talos in Oct. 2017, and his novels CHOP SHOP and MONDO published by Flame Tree Press have received critical acclaim.



Genre: YA/ FICTION

Title/ Author: WHEN WE WERE THEM by Laura Namey Taylor

Rights: Translation Rights

Publisher/ Pub date: Atheneum Books for Young Readers, 11/2/21

Publicity: see above for Laura Taylor Namey and CUBAN GIRL'S GUIDE

Summary:

When they were fifteen, Willa, Luz, and Britton had a friendship that was everything.

When they were sixteen, they stood by one another no matter what.

When they were seventeen, they went through the worst.

And when they were eighteen, Willa ruined it all.

Now, the week of graduation, Willa is left with only a memory box filled with symbols of the friendship she has nearly destroyed: A book of pranks. Corsages from a nightmarish homecoming. A greasy pizza menu. Greeting cards with words that mean the world... It's enough to make Willa wonder how anything could tear her, Luz, and Britton apart. But as Willa revisits the moments when she and her friends leaned on one another, she can't avoid the moments they leaned so hard, their friendship began to crack.

As Willa tries to find a way back to Luz and Britton, she must confront the why of her betrayal and answer a question she never saw coming: Who is she, without them?

About the Author:

Laura Taylor Namey is a Cuban-American Californian who can be found haunting her favorite coffee shops, drooling over leather jackets, and wishing she was in London or Paris. She lives in San Diego with her husband and two superstar children.



This former teacher writes young adult novels about quirky teens learning to navigate life and love. Her debut, *THE LIBRARY OF LOST THINGS*, published 10/08/19 from Inkyard Press/HarperCollins. Her #ownvoices sophomore project, *A CUBAN GIRL'S GUIDE TO TEA AND TOMORROW*, came out in November 2020 from Atheneum (Simon and Schuster).

Website:

<https://www.laurataylornamey.com/>



III. Backlist

Genre: ROMANCE/ HISTORICAL

Title/ Author: A SONG FOR THE STARS by Ilima Todd

Rights: Translation Rights

Publisher/ Pub date: Shadow Mountain, 4/2/2019

Publicity/ any other info: The story is based on Ilima's direct ancestors.

This island romance swept me away. A gorgeous tribute to the author's ancestors and their love story.-- "Kathryn Purdie, #1 New York Times bestselling author"

A delightful amalgamation of fact and fiction as well as a beautifully rendered peek into Hawaiian society before any large Western influence...Astute and luminous, like its heroine.-- "Kirkus Reviews"

Sweet. A dear story of love's ability to cross the figurative and literal ocean that all too easily separates people.-- "Publishers Weekly"

Summary: Inspired by a true story, Hawaiian Islands, 1779

As the second daughter of a royal chief, Maile will be permitted to marry for love. Her fiancé is the best navigator in Hawaii, and he taught her everything he knows how to feel the ocean, observe the winds, read the stars, and how to love.

But when sailors from a strange place called England arrive on her island, a misunderstanding ends in battle, and Maile is suddenly widowed before she is wed.

**About the Author:**

Ilima Todd was born and raised on the north shore of Oahu and dives for octopus with her dad every time she visits—otherwise she’s diving into books in the Rocky Mountains where she lives with her husband and four children. She graduated from BYU with a degree in physics and eats copious amounts of raw fish and avocados without regret. But mostly she loves being a wife and mama and wouldn’t trade that job for anything in the world.

Website: <https://ilimatodd.com>



Genre: ROMANCE/ HISTORICAL

Title/Author: EDENBROOKE and BLACKMOORE by Julianne Donaldson

Publisher: Shadow Mountain, Paperbacks 2012/ 2013

Rights: Translation Rights

Previous Sales: sold in many territories. Please email Stefanie@thetobiasagency.com for more information.

Publicity:

A heart-pounding love story. I couldn't stop turning the pages until I finished it. A must read for all romantics! --Mary Mull, wife of New York Times bestselling author, Brandon Mull

Edenbrooke is so much more than a page-turning tale of love and intrigue. It's the kind of book you read time and time again and recommend to everyone. --Kodi Wright, wife of New York Times bestselling author, Jason F. Wright

Edenbrooke combines charming characters and a lovely setting for a delightful read. It was hard to put down! --Lynette Dashner, wife of New York Times bestselling author, James Dashner.

EDENBROOKE summary:

Marianne Daventry will do anything to escape the boredom of Bath and the amorous attentions of an unwanted suitor. So when an invitation arrives from her twin sister, Cecily, to join her at a sprawling country estate, she jumps at the chance. Thinking she'll be able to relax and enjoy her beloved English countryside while her sister snags the



handsome heir of Edenbrooke, Marianne finds that even the best laid plans can go awry. From a terrifying run-in with a highwayman to a seemingly harmless flirtation, Marianne finds herself embroiled in an unexpected adventure filled with enough romance and intrigue to keep her mind racing. Will Marianne be able to rein in her traitorous heart, or will a mysterious stranger sweep her off her feet? Fate had something other than a relaxing summer in mind when it sent Marianne to Edenbrooke.

About the author:

Julianne Donaldson grew up as the daughter of a U.S. Air Force fighter pilot. She learned how to ski in the Italian Alps, visited East Berlin before the wall came down, and spent three years living next to a 500-year-old castle. After earning a degree in English, she turned her attention to writing about distant times and places. She lives in Utah with her five children. You can find her online at www.juliannedonaldson.com.



Genre: ROMANCE/ HISTORICAL

Title/ Author: ALL THAT MAKES LIFE BRIGHT: The Life and Love of Harriet Beecher Stowe by Josi S. Kilpack

Rights: Translation Rights

Publisher/ Pub date: Shadow Mountain, 9/5/2017

Publicity:

"In her latest marvelously engaging historical novel, Kilpack writes with great insight and superb sensitivity about the ways in which Harriet and Calvin struggled to achieve a marriage that works for both of them. At the same time, Kilpack deftly demonstrates how Harriet's early married years acted as a sort of literary petri dish in which she refined her own writing skills while also defining her thoughts on the issue of slavery, ultimately leading her to write Uncle Tom's Cabin, a novel which played a major role in advancing the abolitionist cause not just in the United States but around the world."

--Booklist Starred Review! --This text refers to the [paperback](#) edition.

Summary:

When Harriet Beecher marries Calvin Stowe on January 6, 1836, she is sure her future will be filled romance, eventually a family, and continued opportunities to develop as a writer. Her husband Calvin is completely supportive and said she must be a literary woman. Harriet's sister, Catharine, worries she will lose her identity in marriage, but she is determined to preserve her independent spirit. Deeply religious, she strongly believes God has called her to fulfill the roles of wife and writer and will help her accomplish everything she was born to do.

Two months after her wedding Harriet discovers she is pregnant just as Calvin prepares to leave for a European business trip. Alone, Harriet is overwhelmed—being a wife has been harder than she thought and being an expectant mother feels like living another woman's life. Knowing that part of Calvin still cherishes the memory of his first wife, Harriet begins to question her place in her husband's heart and yearns for his return; his



letters are no substitute for having him home. When Calvin returns, however, nothing seems to have turned out as planned.

Struggling to balance the demands of motherhood with her passion for writing and her desire to be a part of the social change in Ohio, Harriet works to build a life with her beloved Calvin despite differing temperaments and expectations.

Can their love endure, especially after “I do”? Can she recapture the first blush of new love and find the true beauty in her marriage?

About the Author:

Josi S. Kilpack is the author of twenty-five novels, including A Culinary Mystery series and several titles in A Proper Romance series and A Historical Proper Romance series. Her novel *A Heart Revealed* was a 2015 *Publishers Weekly Best Romance Book of the Year*. She and her husband, Lee, are the parents to four children. --This text refers to the paperback edition.



Genre: TRUE CRIME/ NON-FICTION

Title/ Author: WITHOUT A PRAYER: THE DEATH OF LUCAS LENOARD AND HOW ONE CHURCH BECAME A CULT by Susan Ashline

Rights: Translation Rights

Publisher/ Pub date: Pegasus Crime, 8/6/2019

Publicity:

*"An excellent debut. Meticulously researched, this is a gripping account, but it's not for the faint-hearted." — **Publishers Weekly (starred)***

*"Basing her work on extensive interviews with former churchgoers, as well as police, prosecutors, and public documents, Ashline skillfully unfolds the events in a compassionate, thoughtful voice. Readers interested in true crime and cults will be enthralled by this expertly rendered tale of extremism." — **Library Journal (starred)***

*"An in-depth portrait of a cult and its downfall after the murder of one of its members. Readers looking for a cult origin story will find this a captivating read." — **Booklist***

*"A fascinating, heartbreaking, and fraught page-turner. Ashline avoids easy judgments in favor of letting the story unfold and the evidence speak for itself. A powerful and absorbing contribution to the libraries of true crime, sociology and long-form journalism." — **BookReporter***

"There was something sinister going on behind the walls of the Word of Life Christian Church outside Utica, New York. In her debut book, Without a Prayer, Susan Ashline removes those walls brick by brick, revealing a terrifying world of religion gone awry, a congregation whose collective willingness to believe overwhelmed their ability to think, a cult whose members blindly followed a madman with horribly violent results. Ashline not



only explains with clarity what happened, but even more impressively offers a psychologically satisfying answer to the question of why." -- Michael Benson, author of 'Nightmare in Rochester' and 'The Devil at Genesee Junction'

"Susan Ashline tells a terrifying true tale in Without a Prayer. Not long ago, in upstate New York, a self-ordained pastor, spewing twisted scripture and claiming a direct line to God, entered the minds of his flock and led them into a world of unrelieved malice and ultimately violence. What shocks is how swiftly he was able to enter the minds of his followers who came to believe that he alone knew what was right and what they must do to enter the Kingdom of Heaven. Without a Prayer will haunt you with its disturbing evidence of the fragility of civilized norms and the power of madmen in their absence." -- Mary Cummings, author of 'Saving Sin City'

"Susan Ashline's narrative of group pathology is a cautionary tale of toxic mind control over a vulnerable religious flock. The consequences include unwarranted inhumane treatment for many—and a life of torment punctuated by death for one, the youth Lucas Leonard. The nightmare doesn't quite reach the nadir of the Jim Jones mass tragedy, but it's enough to inspire a series of Stephen King horror stories. The moral: If someone claims he or she has a direct line to God and you must obey whatever you're ordered, RUN! For your life." -- James Presley, author of 'The Phantom Killer' and 'A Saga of Wealth'

"This book feels compelled by compassionate outrage, all the more so for being written with such cool and controlled precision. With her sharp instinct for the right detail Susan Ashline brilliantly conjures the small town setting in which the Word of Life cult managed to flourish, and makes the ensuing horror story seem quite alarmingly real. She also shows how evil can live among us, banal for all its excesses, bizarrely consoling to those who fall under its spell." -- Laura Thompson, author of 'A Tale of Two Murders' and 'Agatha Christie: A Mysterious Life'

**Summary:**

Teenager Lucas Leonard made shocking admissions in front of the altar—he'd practiced witchcraft, conspired to murder his parents, and committed unspeakable crimes. The confessions earned him a brutal beating by a gang of angry church members, including his parents and sister. Lucas was brought to the hospital dead, awakening the sleepy community of Chadwicks, New York, to the horror that had been lurking next door.

Nine members of Lucas' church would eventually find themselves facing murder-related charges. But how did they get to that point? And what made Lucas confess? The full story has never been told—until now.

Emmy-nominated journalist Susan Ashline delves deep into the Leonard family history, the darkness within the Word of Life Christian Church, and what led Lucas, his family, and his community to that fateful night.

About the Author:

Susan Ashline's journalism career spans more than 25 years and includes news reporting for most of the major television networks. Her work has received major awards, including an Emmy nomination for a public broadcasting societal concerns program, a first place Associated Press award for general excellence in individual reporting, and a Gold Medal Award for Democrat and Chronicle online excellence. She lives near Rochester, New York.



IV. Subagents

THE BALKANS: Corto Literary Agency

ITALY: Gabriella Ambrosioni Literary Agency

JAPAN: Japan Uni Agency

POLAND: Book/Lab

RUSSIA: Andrew Nurnberg Associates

SPAIN, PORTUGAL, AND LATIN AMERICA: Sandra Bruna Literary Agency

TURKEY: Nurcihan Kesim Literary Agency