

THE UNTER AGENCY

RIGHTS GUIDE

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ADULT

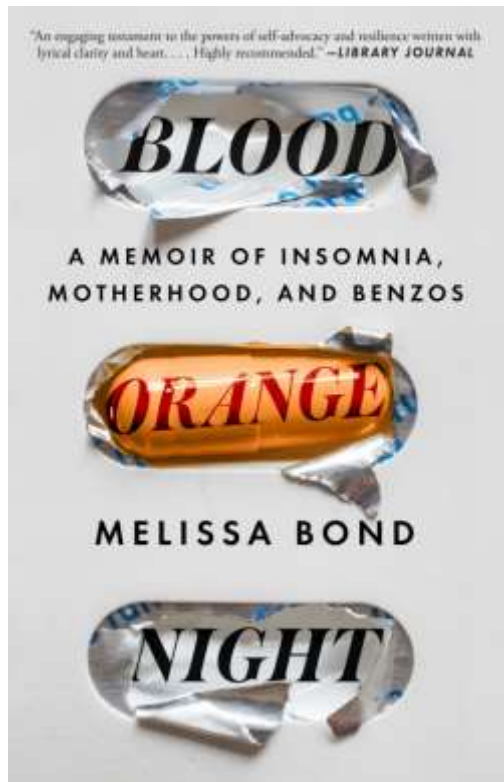
ADULT NON-FICTION - MEMOIR

BLOOD ORANGE NIGHT by *Melissa Bond*

Simon & Schuster/Gallery Books, June 2022

Agent: Jen Nadol / jen.nadol@theunteragency.com

RIGHTS AVAILABLE: Foreign (excluding UK), Film/TV/Stage



Paperback released 8/23 with new cover and bonus chapter

Brain on Fire meets High Achiever in this “page-turner memoir chronicling a woman’s accidental descent into prescription benzodiazepine dependence—and the life-threatening impacts of long-term use—that chills to the bone” (*Nylon*).

As Melissa Bond raises her infant daughter and a special-needs one-year-old son, she suffers from unbearable insomnia, sleeping an hour or less each night. She loses her job as a journalist (a casualty of the 2008 recession), and her relationship with her husband grows distant. Her doctor casually prescribes benzodiazepines—a family of drugs that includes Xanax, Valium, Klonopin, Ativan—and increases her dosage regularly.

Following her doctor’s orders, Melissa takes the pills night after night until her body begins to shut down. Only when she collapses while holding her daughter does Melissa learn that her doctor—like so many others—has over-prescribed the medication and quitting cold turkey could lead to psychosis or fatal seizures. Benzodiazepine addiction is not well studied, and few experts know how to help Melissa as she begins the months-long process of tapering off the pills without suffering debilitating, potentially deadly consequences.

Each page thrums with the heartbeat of Melissa’s struggle—how many hours has she slept? How many weeks old are her babies? How many milligrams has she taken? Her propulsive writing crescendos to a fever pitch as she fights for her health and her ability to care for her children.

**Barnes & Noble
August 2023 Non-
Fiction Pick**

“Bond’s narrative casts a burning light onto the hazards of overprescribing and the threat it poses to vulnerable people. This cautionary tale stuns.”
— **Publishers Weekly** ☆ (starred)

**Amazon Editors Pick:
Best Biographies &
Memoirs**

**A NY Times Best
Audiobook of 2022**

**A Hudson
Booksellers Best
Book of 2022**

**A 2022 Kobo Best
Biographies/Memoirs
of 2022**



Melissa Bond is a narrative journalist and poet. In the years of her dependence on benzodiazepines, Melissa blogged and became a regular contributor for *Mad in America*. ABC World News Tonight interviewed her for a piece in January 2014. Melissa is a respected writer and speaker on the perils of over-prescribing benzodiazepines and has been featured on the podcasts *Risk!*, *IGNTD*, and *The Addiction Podcast*.

 www.melissaabond.com

 @MBondAuthor

ADULT NON-FICTION - NARRATIVE

THE CHILD CATCHER by Andrew Bridge

Post Hill/Regalo, September 2024

RIGHTS AVAILABLE: Foreign (excluding UK), Film/TV/Stage

Agent: Jennifer Unter / Jennifer@theunteragency.com & Jen Nadol / jen.nadol@theunteragency.com



*From the author of NYT bestselling memoir, **Hope's Boy**, comes a riveting **David vs. Goliath** narrative that pits a newbie lawyer against the kind of institutional systems that abused him and his mentally ill mother.*

At age seven, Andrew Bridge was separated from his mentally ill single mom and placed in MacLaren Hall, one of LA's institutional care facilities. At age 25, after a childhood in foster care, Andrew is, improbably, a Harvard Law graduate working at a white shoe LA law firm. By all appearances, he is the one thing he'd always wanted to be: normal, his past carefully concealed.

But after a visit to his still-institutionalized mom, Andrew does the unthinkable: he leaves posh LA behind, taking an 85% pay cut for a job with a shoestring non-profit in Washington DC. The case he's assigned? Lead litigator representing children in a class action suit against the state of Alabama related to conditions in state-run mental health institutions. The same type of institutions seven-year-old Andrew spent nearly a year in before foster care placement.

First-time litigator Andrew tries to build a case against a government whose decades of stonewalling have kept deplorable conditions intact at their cash-cow institutions. Andrew's pursuit of justice takes him through squatters' camps to families who sought help for their kids, never imagining the system would refuse to release them, and into the depths of Eufaula Adolescent Center, the abuses there painfully familiar, forcing a reckoning with his own history. In the end, it's a story of triumph as one small boy dares to speak truths that force the closing of Eufaula and cement Andrew Bridge's ongoing dedication to fighting for kids in jeopardy.



Andrew Bridge is a New York Times Bestselling author, American lawyer, and advocate for children and families living in poverty. He became the executive director of the California-based Alliance for Children's Rights in 1997, established the National Adoption Day in the US, has served as a University of California Regents' Lecturer, Commissioner to the Los Angeles County Probation Commission, Senior Innovation Adviser to the State of Illinois and is a founding Director of The New Village Charter School for Girls, a charter school for pregnant and parenting teens. His childhood memoir *Hope's Boy* was named a New York Times Bestseller, Publishers Weekly Bestseller, Los Angeles Times Discoveries Book, People Magazine Critic's Choice, and Washington Post Book of the Year. He has contributed to *The Los Angeles Times*, *The New York Times*, and other publications.

 www.hopesboy.com

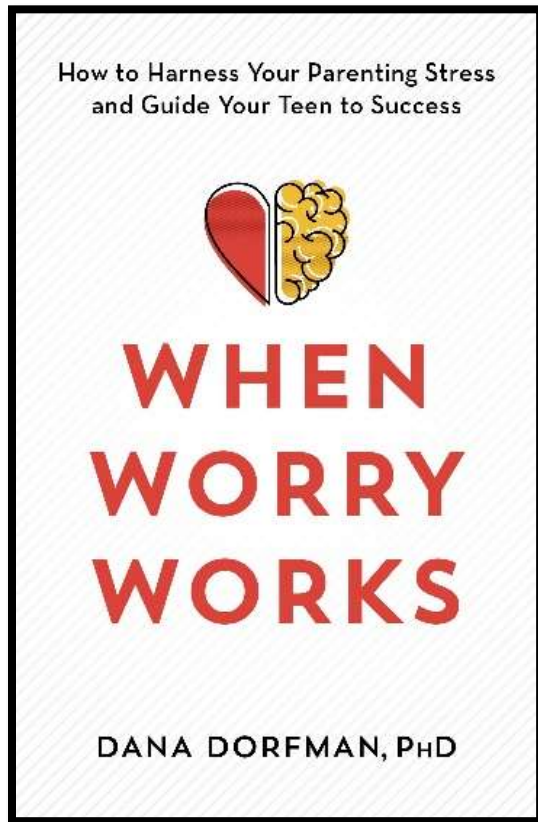
ADULT NON-FICTION - PRESCRIPTIVE

WHEN WORRY WORKS by Dr. Dana Dorfman

Rowman & Littlefield, February 2023

Agent: Jennifer Unter / jennifer@theunteragency.com

RIGHTS AVAILABLE: Foreign, Film/TV/Stage



Helps parents manage the stresses of adolescent achievement culture and to make decisions which align with their values, rather than their anxiety.

WHEN WORRY WORKS responds to one of the primary sources of the nation's worsening adolescent mental health crisis – achievement pressure. Burdened by the mounting pressures on today's youth, parents seek ways to strike the balance between supporting their teens' current well-being while also setting them up for future success. Eager to take action and to manage their escalating fears, parents inadvertently and unknowingly exacerbate the problem by overlooking their own *parental achievement anxiety*.

Based on thirty years of clinical practice and her experiences raising her own teenagers in New York City, the work demonstrates that when parents become aware of their individual anxieties and learn to effectively manage them, they are empowered to make values aligned, rather than worry driven parenting decisions. Dr. Dorfman provides practical evidence-based parenting strategies, exercises, and reflective prompts to guide parents through a process to constructively apply to their day-to-day parenting decisions.

"Parenting teens is stressful. Psychotherapist Dorfman, mother of two teens, admits to her own emotional battles.... Focusing on parents rather than teens, Dorfman offers sensible steps to ease relationships and find winning solutions. She helps parents learn to reason rather than react and points out how their own childhood experiences can influence their parenting styles. Readers are sure to spot themselves among parents described as sculptors, game-show contestants, crowd-pleasers, avoiders, clairvoyants, shepherds, correctors, and replicators and benefit from Dorfman's sane advice." — Booklist

"This is just the book parents need to bring down anxiety and connect more with their child through the ups and downs, pressures and worries of the adolescent years." — Tovah Klein, PhD, Author and Director



Dr. Dana Dorfman has 30 years of clinical practice experience treating children, adolescents, parents & adults. As a passionate advocate of mental health, she's a public speaker, workshop facilitator, & consultant working with schools, parenting centers, and mental health organizations. She's contributed to the New York Times, CNN, Wall Street Journal, Parents, Oprah Daily, and Refinery 29, among other publications

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 @DrDanaDorfman

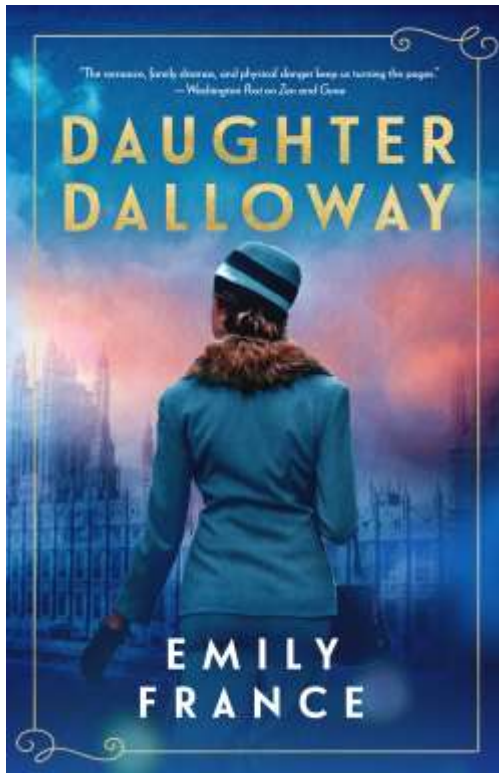
ADULT FICTION - HISTORICAL

DAUGHTER DALLOWAY by Emily France

Blackstone, March 2023

Agent: Jennifer Unter / jennifer@theunteragency.com

RIGHTS AVAILABLE: Foreign (excluding UK), Film/TV/Stage



A deeply evocative coming of age story, Daughter, Dalloway is a retelling of Virginia Woolf's classic novel, following two rebellious young women through interwar London, whose paths are inextricably entwined as they search for the truth about the people they love.

London, 1952: Forty-six-year-old Elizabeth Dalloway feels she has failed at most everything in life, especially living up to her mother, the elegant Mrs. Dalloway, an ideal socialite and model of perfection until she disappeared in the summer of 1923—and hasn't been heard from since. When Elizabeth is handed a medal with a mysterious inscription from her mother to a soldier named Septimus Warren Smith, she's certain it contains a clue from the past. As she sets out, determined to deliver the medal to its rightful owner, Elizabeth begins to piece together memories of that fateful summer. That summer, Octavia Smith braves the journey from the countryside to London, determined to track down her older brother Septimus who returned from the war but never came home. Elizabeth and Octavia are destined to cross paths and, when they do, the truths they unearth will shatter their understanding of the people they love most.

A PopSugar Best Historical Fiction of 2023 pick

"Woolf would appreciate France's novel because it, like Mrs. Dalloway, explores the same existential question: how should we live our life? [France] leavens her novel with a mystery that the reader will find satisfying."

--**Historical Novels Review**

"Like Mrs. Dalloway's English garden, Daughter Dalloway blooms with joy and melancholy; personal histories flower in the shadows of wars, secrets, scandals, and loves. A rich continuation of Virginia Woolf's immortal intentions, and a tender evocation of the female battle for self."

--**Juliet Grames**, winner of the 2022 Ellery Queen Award and author of *The Seven or Eight Deaths of Stella Fortuna*



Emily France is a graduate of Brown University and is the critically acclaimed author of several books. Her young adult titles, *Zen and Gone* and *Signs of You*, were selected as a Washington Post Best Book of the Month and an Apple Books Best of the Month. *Daughter Dalloway* is her adult debut.

BACKLIST TITLES: *SIGNS OF YOU* (YA), *ZEN AND GONE* (YA), *KRIT DREAMS OF DRAGONFRUIT* (picture book)

 www.EmilyFranceBooks.com

 @EmilyFranceBook

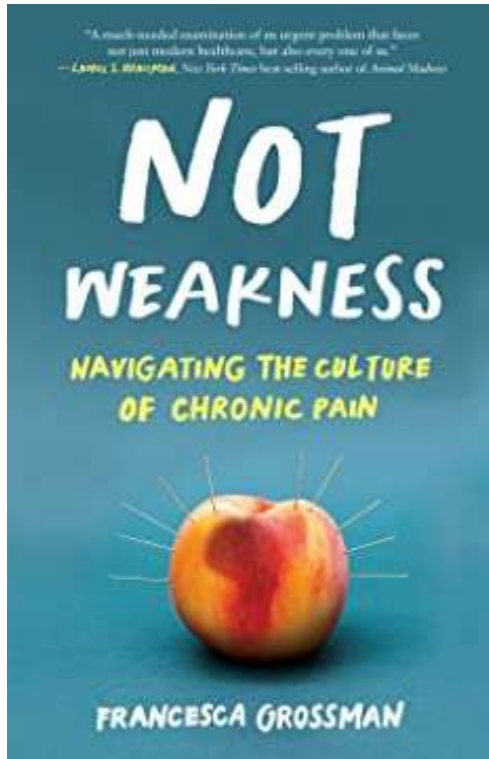
ADULT NON-FICTION - MEMOIR

NOT WEAKNESS by Francesca Grossman

She Writes Press, April 2023

Agent: Jennifer Unter / Jennifer@theunteragency.com

RIGHTS AVAILABLE: Foreign (excluding UK), Film/TV/Stage



After a slew of autoimmune conditions ransacked her body in her 20s and 30s, Francesca Grossman was in chronic, relentless, often indescribable pain, alone and exhausted. It affected her whole life—intimacy, motherhood, friendship, work, and mental health. Yet it was also fairly invisible.

On a whim, Francesca started asking other women if they had chronic pain—only to find that she was surrounded by women also battling in silence. The more she spoke to people, the more she found common themes and experiences, proving that her stories of pain were not unique, and neither were her feelings of loneliness and seclusion. Liberated by this discovery, Francesca realized that while she couldn't alleviate anyone's pain, maybe she could lift the shadows surrounding it.

Imbued with a deep respect for the women who tell their stories in its pages, as well as a healthy skepticism of the healthcare world and how it can silence, shame, and ignore women in pain, *Not Weakness* is galvanizing memoir about living and loving with chronic pain.

"A searing personalized indictment of how society responds to women's chronic pain." --Clarion

"So much more than a personal memoir, Not Weakness is a meditation on womanhood, endurance, and daring to exist in a culture nominally obsessed with wellness and hustle yet deeply uncomfortable with those whose bodily realities reveal the limits of those ideals—limits which all of us, inevitably, will encounter." --Natalia Petrzela, author of Fit Nation: The Gains and Pains of America's Exercise Obsession

"[Grossman] brings love and beauty and deep empathy. Get this book for yourself and your people" --Jennifer Pastiloff, author of On Being Human



Francesca Grossman is a writer and writing instructor. Her work has been published in *The New York Times*, *Brain*, *China Magazine*, *The Manifest Station*, *Ed Week*, *Drunken Boat*, and *Word Riot*, among others. She runs writing retreats and workshops internationally and leads an annual intensive workshop at The Harvard Graduate School of Education. She has a BA and MA from Stanford University and a doctorate from Harvard University in education. Her acclaimed instructional manual *Writing Workshop: How to Create a Culture of Useful Feedback* is used in universities and workshops all over the world. Francesca lives in Newton, MA, with her husband and two children.

 www.francescagrossmanbooks.com

ADULT NON-FICTION - MEMOIR

WANTED: TODDLER'S PERSONAL ASSISTANT by Stephanie Kiser

Sourcebooks, August 2024

RIGHTS AVAILABLE: Foreign (excluding UK), Film/TV/Stage

Agent: Jen Nadol / jen.nadol@theunteragency.com



COVER IMAGE
COMING SOON

A compulsively readable, highly relevant memoir that is MAID x THE NANNY DIARIES x EDUCATED

After a dysfunctional childhood as one of four kids born to teenage parents and raised "white trash" in poor Rhode Island, Stephanie Kiser finds herself a 22-year-old first-generation college grad drowning in student loan debt. To stay afloat, she surrenders her career-track PR job for a position as nanny to New York City's toddler elite.

The span of seven years takes Stephanie from working alongside a stay-at-home mom in her ten-million-dollar Park Ave apartment to a "no discipline" family to outrageous interviews with Manhattan's uber-wealthy from the Kushners to world-class doctors and finally, to a position with a young couple, both high-powered lawyers, with three small kids.

Interwoven with Stephanie's time in the glamorous world of the 1% (in the unglamorous role of domestic help) is the narrative of her own upbringing, the contrasts illuminating both the effects of privilege and the grit of self-sufficiency.

WANTED: TODDLER'S PERSONAL ASSISTANT is at once a coming-of-age story, perfectly capturing the twenty-something angst of striving to be *someone* and do *something* without knowing exactly what that means, and accessible social commentary, touching on key issues in American society today: motherhood & the role of women, white & inherited privilege, blue v red politics, reproductive rights, healthcare, student loans, the myths of equality & upward mobility in the US and what "success" really means in our society.

As Stephanie's eyes are opened to a more examined reflection of her life and priorities, so are the reader's. The result is a riveting story sure to spark discussion and interest from a readership as wide as the socioeconomic classes, ages and backgrounds Stephanie traverses in her narrative.



Stephanie Kiser is a first-generation college student who studied Writing for Film & Television at Emerson College. For seven years, Stephanie worked as a nanny to some of Manhattan's wealthiest families before "retiring" from childcare. She is currently the Executive Assistant to the CEO of a New York City based tech company. She is also a mentor for the nationwide program Girls Write Now which has a high-profile network of thousands and which the White House recently named a top youth program.

She lives in Astoria with her Cavalier King Charles Spaniel, Burger Clinton, who models for stores such as Bloomingdale's and Bergdorf Goodman