

GCLS 17TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2021

WEEKENDS JULY 9-31



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17TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE
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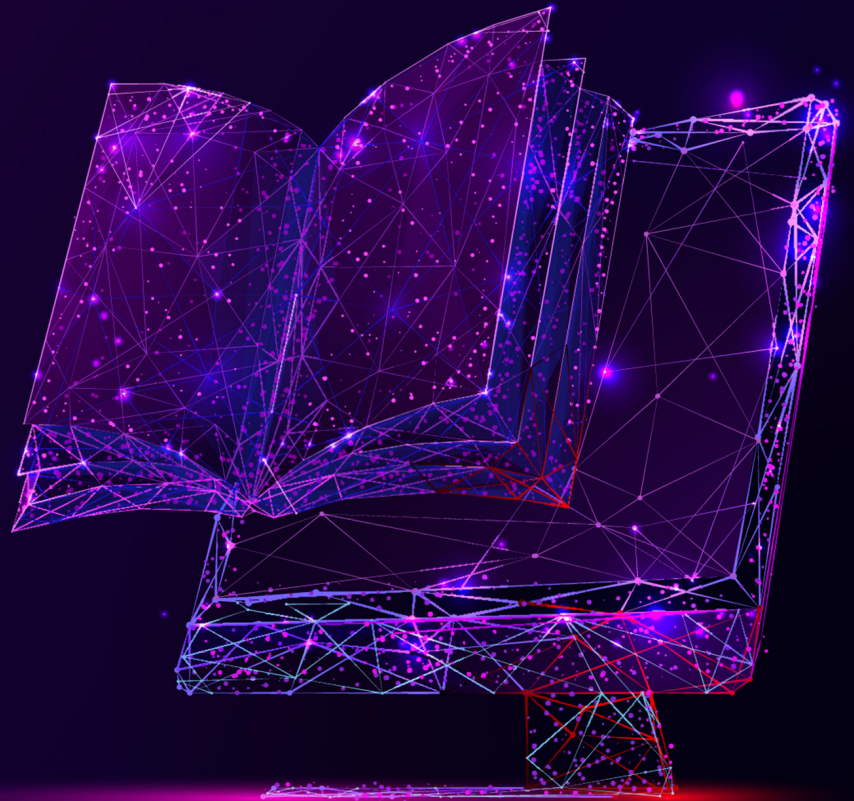
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Greetings 2021 Virtual Con Attendees:

Welcome to the GCLS 2021 Virtual Con! We're very excited to bring you four weekends of fun, learning, and celebration during July. There are over 50 events to attend, featuring many conference veterans and newbies.

We're honored to welcome our Special Guests, Emma Donoghue and Renée Bess. Our Trailblazers will "sound off" about the state of WLW fiction, and we'll hear about the growing interest of "Ice Queens" from The Lesbian Review. Master classes with Sheree L. Greer, Emily August, and Anna Burke will help all authors or aspiring authors learn more about their craft. A group of well-known narrators will take us behind the scenes and into the world of audio books, and of course, we'll conclude the conference with the Goldie Awards.

A conference of this size wouldn't have been possible without the dedicated efforts of so many people. The program you're reading right now is the creation of graphic designer extraordinaire, Ann McMan. Carleen Spry has shepherded the awards process for the last year, serving as Awards Administrator. Regarding awards, a huge thank you to all of the individuals who volunteered to judge. Without you, there wouldn't be an Awards Ceremony.

Carleen also added registration and Zoom technology to her responsibilities when we decided to go virtual. Assisting with technology is Suzie Carr, our resident video expert. New volunteer Christel Cogneau coordinated all of the

ads and sponsorships, learning about GCLS while she raised much needed funds. We thank all of the donors and sponsors for your generosity.

A special shoutout goes to Michele Reynolds, the Scheduling Chair, as well as her Scheduling Committee—Maria Peña, Anna Burke, Christel Cogneau, Sheryl Wright, and Finnian Burnett. Organizing so many events with 150+ individuals is incredibly tedious, but Michele and her crew have created a schedule with quality programming and diverse representation.

Anne Hagen and Pol Robinson organized the Online Auction, so be sure you check it out. Many thanks to all those who donated items and those who will bid.

Finally, a tip of the hat to the entire GCLS Board of Directors who have logged hundreds of hours preparing for this month-long conference. They are an incredible group who live the GCLS mission every day.

May you enjoy this year's two-dimensional conference, and we look forward to exchanging hundreds of in-person hugs from all of you in Albuquerque.

Sincerely,

Ann Roberts

Interim Executive Director



MESSAGE FROM THE INTERIM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Ann Roberts



Anna Burke



Suzie Carr



Michelle Dunkley



Anne Hagan



Joanne Johnson



KC Luck



Maria Peña



Michele Reynolds



Cris Perez-Soria

MEET YOUR GCLS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Interim Executive Director
Member since: 2011
Board Member Since: 2015
Email: ann.roberts@goldencrown.org

Anna Burke

Director of Education
Member since: 2016
Board Member since: 2020
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At-Large Director of Membership
Member Since: 2013
Board Member Since: 2017
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Michelle Dunkley

At-Large Director of Membership
Member since: 2018
Board Member since: 2020
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Anne Hagan

Director of Marketing
Member Since: 2016
Board Member Since: 2020
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Joanne Johnson

Director of Finance/Treasurer
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Board Member Since: 2020
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KC Luck

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Board Member Since: 2019
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Maria Peña

Director of Diversity & Inclusion
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Board Member Since: 2017
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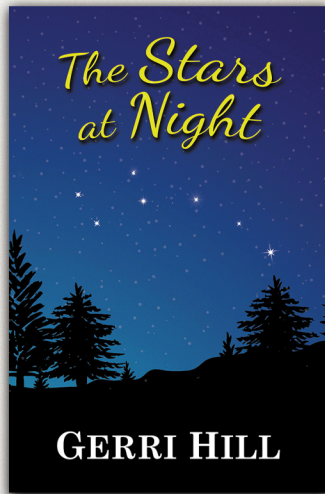
Michele Reynolds

Director of Organization and Chair
Member since: 2015
Board Member Since: 2020
Email: mreynolds@goldencrown.org

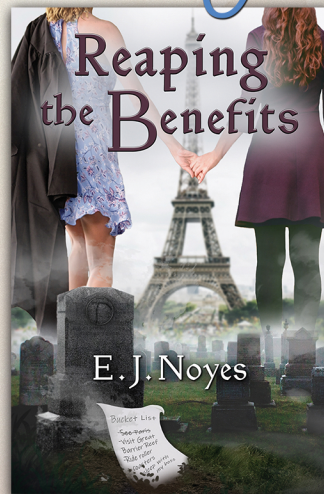
Cris Perez-Soria

Director of Community Engagement
Member since: 2012
Board Member since: 2017
Email: cris.perez-soria@goldencrown.org

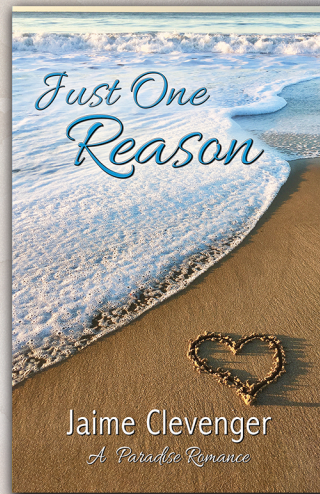
Congratulations



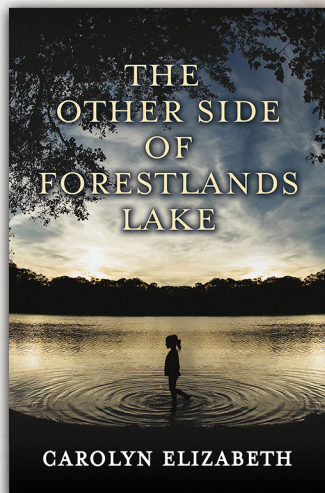
The Stars at Night
Gerri Hill
Contemporary Romance: Long



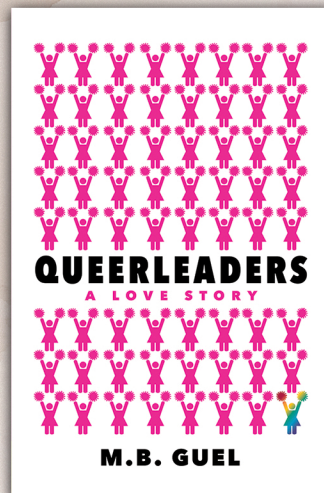
Reaping the Benefits
E. J. Noyes
Contemporary Romance: Long
Ann Bannon Popular Choice



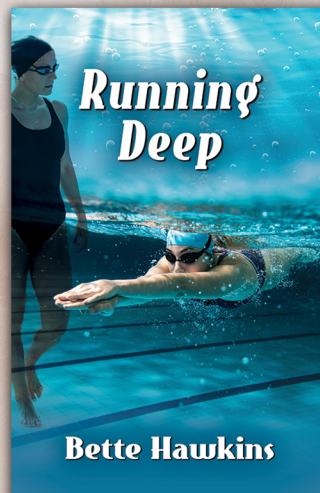
Just One Reason
Jaime Clevenger
Contemporary Romance: Long



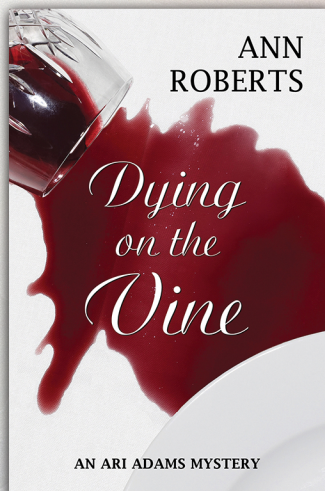
The Other Side of Forestlands Lake
Carolyn Elizabeth
Paranormal / Occult / Crime
Tee Corinne Award



Queerleaders
M.B. Guel
Debut
Young Adult



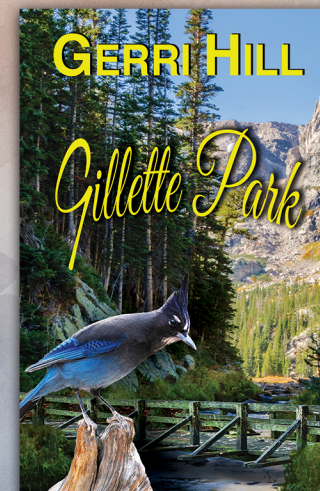
Running Deep
Bette Hawkins
Contemporary Romance: Short



Dying on the Vine
Ann Roberts
Mystery / Thriller / Crime



Dirt Nap
Carolyn Elizabeth
Romantic Blend



Gillette Park
Gerri Hill
Paranormal / Occult / Crime



BellaBooks.com

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Weekend 1 Sponsor **Bold Strokes Books**

[view sponsor video](#)



Friday, July 9th

6:00PM - 6:55PM Eastern Time Zone

PANEL: From Novice to Novels: The GCLS Writing Academy Experience

Have you ever thought about writing a novel but have no idea how to start? Are you curious about the Writing Academy? Five members of this year's class will discuss their experiences over the past year, from the application process, through mentorship, to preparing a manuscript for submission. Learn how the program works, personalized instruction, and yes, homework.

PANELISTS: Nan Campbell, Cara Cilento, Suzanne Lenoir, Charlotte Paige, Jesse René, J. Torres

MODERATOR: Rita Potter

7:00PM - 7:55PM Eastern Time Zone

PANEL: Dystopia Narrative: Surviving the Brave, New World

Dystopias offer glimpses into possible futures, both bleak and hopeful, and offer writers and readers the opportunity to examine social, political, and environmental issues through the lens of fiction. Whether the dystopia is post-apocalyptic, Cli-Fi (climate fiction), cyberpunk, or any other possibilities inherent in the dystopian genre, these stories deliver warning and hope in equal measure. Join the panel as they talk about queer dystopian narratives, the reasons they write and read dystopias, and what writers can learn from these imagined futures.

PANELISTS: Virginia Black, Anna Burke, Mary Griggs, KC Luck, Rae D. Magdon

MODERATOR: Jenn Alexander

SESSION SPONSOR: K.A. Moll

Saturday, July 10th

11:00AM - 11:55AM Eastern Time Zone

PANEL: Trends in Fanfic

Fanfic is often a frontrunner to lesfic, with themes, tropes and even phrases moving from fanfic to published novels. We'll talk about current hot trends in fanfic, from the story level down to specific language. Are there tropes that are taboo or simply won't work in lesfic? (Yes, we plan to talk about Omegaverse—you don't need to know what that is, just come prepared to buckle your seatbelts and, if necessary, use your safeword.)

PANELISTS: K. Aten, Virginia Black, Patrice James, Rae D. Magdon, Astrid Ohletz

MODERATOR: Rachel Gold

SESSION SPONSOR: iReadIndies.com

11:00AM - 11:55AM Eastern Time Zone

Author Spotlight

AUTHORS: KJ, Kay Acker, Julie Cannon, Ann McMan, Patty Schramm, Caren J. Werlinger

MODERATOR: Maria Peña

SESSION SPONSOR: Flashpoint Publications

12:00PM - 12:55PM Eastern Time Zone

Round Table: The Lesbian Review Presents The Rise of the Ice Queen

LesFic has seen a significant rise in the numbers of books being published in the 'ice queen' trope. Let's talk together about what it is that makes readers love ice queens. How are ice queens different from beasts? The panel will also divulge their favorite ice queen books.

PANELISTS: PJ, April, Tara Scott, Victoria Thomas

MODERATOR: Sheena Lemos Ebersohn

SESSION SPONSOR: Ylva Publishing

VIRTUAL CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

1:00PM - 1:55PM Eastern Time Zone

Round Table: Contests, Awards, Grants

Mainstream biases often keep LGBTQ writers from achieving recognition outside the community, but sometimes we may limit our own success by not submitting applications for opportunities that seem beyond our reach. We may "self-reject" from applying for contests, fellowships, conferences, residencies, and awards that aren't specifically geared to LGBTQ. This panel of authors, who have successfully pursued opportunities outside the LGBTQ sphere, will discuss their experiences and offer leads, tips, and other advice.

PANELISTS: Lynn Ames, Sally Bellerose, Rachel Gold, Regina Jamison, Paula Martinac

MODERATOR: Cindy Rizzo

SESSION SPONSOR: Bella Books

1:00PM - 1:55PM Eastern Time Zone

Author Spotlight

AUTHORS: K. Aten, Carol Anne Douglas, Louisa Kelley, Sam Ledel, D. Jackson Leigh, Brey Willows

MODERATOR: Ali Vali

SESSION SPONSOR: Flashpoint Publications

2:00PM - 3:25PM Eastern Time Zone

SPECIAL GUEST: A Conversation with Emma Donoghue

Sponsored by Bywater Books

Ms. Donoghue is the 2008 Goldie Award Winner for her novel, *Landing*. Her 2010 novel *Room* was a finalist for the Man Booker, Commonwealth and Orange Prize and later made into an Academy Award-winning movie, for which Ms. Donoghue was nominated for her screenplay.

Her timely July 2020 release, *The Pull of the Stars*, takes place in a Dublin, Ireland, maternity ward at the height of the Great Flu in 1918.

Ms. Donoghue will discuss *The Pull of the Stars* during this session with conference attendees.

MODERATOR: Carolyn Elizabeth

4:00PM - 4:55PM Eastern Time Zone

Author Spotlight

AUTHORS: Sally Bellerose, Serena J. Bishop, Elle E. Ire, Lee Lynch, RJ Samuel, Laney Webber

MODERATOR: Kay Acker

4:00PM - 4:55PM Eastern Time Zone

Author Spotlight

AUTHORS: Finnian Burnett, Cara Cilento, Rita Potter, L.L. Shelton, J. Torres

MODERATOR: Anna Burke

Sunday, July 11th

11:00AM - 11:55AM Eastern Time Zone

PRESENTATION: Pushing Through Fears and Doubts to Write Your Memoir

Do you feel that you have a story that you know other people would benefit from? Are you feeling called to share your story, but aren't sure where to start? Or have you already started it, but set it aside and haven't finished? Fear is the number one deterrent when it comes to writing your memoir. You must push through your fears and tell your story anyway.

PRESENTER: Jenn T. Grace

12:00PM - 12:55PM Eastern Time Zone

Annual Meeting & Writing Academy Graduation

1:30PM - 2:35PM Eastern Time Zone

Author Spotlight

AUTHORS: Ann Aptaker, Gun Brooke, Rae D. Magdon, MB Panichi, Karen F. Williams, Ali Vali, Barbara Ann Wright

MODERATOR: Patty Schramm

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2:30PM - 3:25PM Eastern Time Zone

PANEL: Marketing for Success

Whether you write romance, science fiction, or thrillers, and whether you self-publish or sign with a publisher big or small, you must market if you want to be seen. Panel members will discuss how they come up with their marketing strategies, what role their publishers play, and what has worked, and not worked, both inside and outside of today's crazy social media platforms.

PANELISTS: Tammy Bird, Carolyn Elizabeth, Anne Hagan, KC Luck, Amanda Radley

MODERATOR: Clare Ashton

SESSION SPONSOR: Flashpoint Publications

3:30PM - 4:25PM Eastern Time Zone

PANEL: Your Gender Workshop

Gen Z is innovating new genders and sexual identities—building on decades of groundbreaking work in the community of lesbian, bi and queer women and nonbinary femme people. Regardless of age, you haven't missed out! This interactive session will map new and known identities, celebrate the history of our community's genders and sexualities, and give participants a chance to play with aspects of their own gender and sexuality configurations

PANELISTS: Kay Acker, Nancy Ashmore, Natalie Crowley, Rachel Gold, Rachel Spangler

MODERATOR: Robyn Nyx

SESSION SPONSOR: Lynn Ames



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Weekend 2 Sponsor iReadIndies.com

[view sponsor video](#)



Friday, July 16th

6:00PM - 6:55PM Eastern Time Zone

PANEL: Writing as a Team Sport

The popular image of a writer is a tortured soul sitting behind a keyboard searching for inspiration. Join our five panelists who will debunk this myth. Find out how community plays a vital role in achieving success for authors writing wlv fiction. This panel will tell you ways to find and build a community, about the importance of utilizing the community to provide feedback to better your writing, and how collaborative efforts can take your writing to a new level.

PANELISTS: Luci Dreamer, Sue Green, Lori G. Mathews, Rita Potter, Tegan Shepard

MODERATOR: McGee Mathews

7:00PM - 7:55PM Eastern Time Zone

PANEL: Debut Authors: Then & Now

This panel will look back at winners of the GCLS Debut Author Award. How has the award changed or not changed their career? What have they learned? How has their craft developed? What do their futures hold?

PANELISTS: Jean Copeland, Pol Robinson, Rachel Spangler, Julie Tizard, Caren J. Werlinger

MODERATOR: Melissa Brayden

SESSION SPONSOR: Michele M. Reynolds

Julie Klein julie@jklein-editor.com
 206-786-0560 www.jklein-editor.com

8:00PM - 8:55PM Eastern Time Zone

Author Spotlight

AUTHORS: Jenn Alexander, Toni Draper, Karin Kallmaker, Dorothy Rice Bennett, Cass Sellars, Nance Sparks

MODERATOR: Laina Villeneuve

SESSION SPONSOR: C.L. Cattano

Saturday, July 17th

10:00AM - 11:55AM Eastern Time Zone

MASTER CLASS: Character Matters: Crafting Compelling Characters

There are characters we love and characters we love to hate. To love or hate a character, we have to be invested in the character; we have to know them to have feelings about them. In this workshop, writers will explore what it takes to craft compelling, complex characters who come alive on the page. With in-session writing prompts and small group exercises, writers will take a deep dive into their characters to discover how their quirks, desires, and backgrounds inform a story's plots, themes, and structure.

Instructor: Sheree L. Greer

SESSION SPONSOR: Desert Palm Press

12:00PM - 12:55PM Eastern Time Zone

PANEL: Reaching the Deep Spaces: Writing Trauma

Everyone has dealt with trauma in their lives. For some, reaching deep into those painful spaces creates work of lasting impact and authenticity. In this panel, a group of novelists and poets bare their souls to talk about their experiences with writing trauma.

PANELISTS: Emily August, Sara Orozco, Gar McVey-Russell, RJ Samuel

MODERATOR: Cas Taylor

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1:00PM - 1:55PM Eastern Time Zone

PANEL: Sex & Sensibility

Join, perhaps, our steamiest panel. A discussion with authors who both write, and don't write, sex scenes. Authors debate why they choose one approach over the other and discuss the merits and drawbacks of each.

PANELISTS: Jaime Clevenger, E.J. Cochrane, Sheree L. Greer, Amanda Radley, Karelia Stetz-Waters

MODERATOR: Sandy Lowe

SESSION SPONSOR: MyLesFic.com

2:00PM - 2:55PM Eastern Time Zone

PRESENTATION: World Building: Research and Organization

A story needs more world-building than what goes into the full novel. In this presentation, we'll learn how to research a story's world to provide more depth to the reader and how to organize notes on the world so each aspect of the world remains consistent in the narrative.

PRESENTER: Paula Schumacher

SESSION SPONSOR: Caren J. Werlinger

3:00PM - 3:55PM Eastern Time Zone

Author Spotlight

AUTHORS: Lynn Ames, Tammy Bird, KC Luck, Diane Anderson-Minshall, Laina Villeneuve, Chris Zett

MODERATOR: Jenn Alexander

SESSION SPONSOR: Flashpoint Publications

3:00PM - 3:55PM Eastern Time Zone

PANEL: So, I had this Idea: How Inspirations Became Realities

There's no right way to transform an idea into a finished book. Proof of this can be found in this diverse group of 2021 Debut Author Finalists who will describe where they got their initial inspiration for a story, how they wrote and published their first work, and what's next for them.

PANELISTS: Lucy Bexley, M.B. Guel, Georgia Kolias, Emma L. McGeowen, Samantha Rajaram

MODERATOR: Karin Kallmaker

SESSION SPONSOR: iReadIndies.com

4:00PM - 4:55PM Eastern Time Zone

PANEL: Adding Video Presentations to Your Marketing Toolkit

How to use Q & As, on-line book launches, and even animation, to better build and promote your books. Learn various aspects on how to plan and best showcase the final product. Authors will discuss simple free or inexpensive tools that are available to most authors. They will discuss how to successfully use some form of video in marketing plans. Consumers on the panel will explain what draws them to such events and other videos, while the authors can explain how they achieved the final product and what tools work for them.

PANELISTS: Ellen Hoil, McGee Mathews, Lauren Lewis Stark, Claire Highton-Stevenson, KD Williamson

MODERATOR: Elena Graf

SESSION SPONSOR: Brenda Murphy

Sunday, July 18th

10:00AM - 11:55AM Eastern Time Zone

MASTER CLASS: Journaling Practices for Personal Insight and Professional Writing

Journaling as a regular practice has long been used by both professional writers and those seeking personal insight. In this workshop, participants will be introduced to a handful of different journaling approaches that professional writers typically use to improve their craft and inspire their creative muse. Participants will leave the workshop with techniques to hone their journaling skills or put a new one into practice.

PRESENTER: Emily August

12:00PM - 12:55PM Eastern Time Zone

PANEL: Fiction as a Fun House Mirror: The Disconnect Between Who We Write and Who We Are

When we look around GCLS or Provincetown or Pride or really any gathering of queer women, androgynous and masc of center women are everywhere. Femmes are scarce. Feminine of center queer women are often looked down upon as seeming traitors to our community. Yet in lesfic, we see an

VIRTUAL CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

overwhelming number of conventionally feminine characters. Masc of center characters, however, are limited to one per book. Depictions of queer women in books do not reflect the gender presentations of our community. What creates this disconnect?

PANELISTS: Lila Bruce, Regina Jamison, Renee Roman, Patty Schramm, Ruth Sternglantz

MODERATOR: Ashley Bartlett

SESSION SPONSOR: Karin Kallmaker

1:00PM - 1:55PM Eastern Time Zone

Author Spotlight

AUTHORS: S.W. Andersen, Clare Ashton, Kimberly Cooper Griffin, Erin Dutton, Jazzy Mitchell, Rachel Spangler

MODERATOR: Chris Zett

SESSION SPONSOR: K.A. Moll

2:00PM - 2:55PM Eastern Time Zone

PANEL: Writing for Today - Bring WLW into 2021 and Beyond

A discussion about authors writing lesbian fiction for a new generation of readers. What do readers want to read about, and how does that inform the ways we approach crafting stories? Lesbian fiction now includes a broader spectrum of relationship-based issues that transcend traditional coming out stories: marriage and divorce, raising children, aging, diverse explorations of gender identity and other less lesbian and more queer-focused themes.

PANELISTS: Kay Acker, Hina Ansari, G. Benson, Cindy Rizzo, Laina Villeneuve

MODERATOR: Rae D. Magdon

SESSION SPONSOR: Bella Books

3:00PM - 3:30PM Eastern Time Zone

SPECIAL GUEST: Who put the Pen in My Hand and the Attitude in My Protagonists? by S. Renée Bess

Renée is a Philadelphia bred former high school teacher, who has been writing fiction, in one form or another, for many years. Her short stories have been published in the "Labyrinth Newspaper", *Piece of My Heart*, *A Lesbian of Colour Anthology*, and *Ma-Ka Diasporic Juks: Contemporary Writings by Queers of African Descent*. She is thrilled to have had the opportunity to publish her novels. Renée is dedicated to crafting well-written books about diverse characters, as well as telling stories that explore personal and societal issues.

SESSION SPONSOR: Flashpoint Publications

4:00PM - 4:55PM Eastern Time Zone

Author Spotlight

AUTHORS: A. L. Brooks, Nancy Manahan, Brenda Murphy, Renee Roman, Anne Shade, MJ Williamz

MODERATOR: K. Aten

SESSION SPONSOR: Kate Hershberger

4:00PM - 4:55PM Eastern Time Zone

PANEL: What's So Funny?

Laughter is the best medicine. In trying times and in good, people turn to humor for healing, entertainment, and connection. Join this group of talented authors and storytellers as they talk about what makes them (and everyone else) laugh.

PANELISTS: KJ, Suzie Carr, Jessie Chandler, Mary Deutcher, Sara Orozco

MODERATOR: Erin Zak

SESSION SPONSOR: Purple Hand Press



GCLS ONLINE AUCTION 2021

July 9th - July 30th

<https://virtualauction.bid/GCLS2021>



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Weekend 3 Sponsor Lynn Ames & Cheryl Pletcher

[view sponsor video](#)



Friday, July 23rd

5:30PM - 6:25PM Eastern Time Zone

PANEL: Deep & Wide

A lively discussion of the differences, similarities and challenges of writing fiction, nonfiction, poetry, theater, journalism and stand-up comedy by those who have done it all.

PANELISTS: Fay Jacobs, D. Jackson Leigh, Paula Martinac, Elizabeth Wallace, Erin Zak

MODERATOR: Mary Griggs

5:30PM - 6:25PM Eastern Time Zone

Author Spotlight

AUTHORS: MB Austin, Ashley Bartlett, Anne Hagan, Aurora Rey, Jesse J Thoma, Barbara Wilson

MODERATOR: Rae D. Magdon

7:00PM - 8:25PM Eastern Time Zone

PANEL: Trailblazer Sound-Off

A group of GCLS Trailblazers sound off on issues and trends that matter to them. What trends have they witnessed? How has their own work evolved and changed with the interests and demands of a new generation of readers? What advice do they have to share with aspiring writers?

PANELISTS: Katherine V. Forrest, Ellen Hart, Karin Kallmaker, Lee Lynch, Marianne K. Martin

MODERATOR: Fay Jacobs

SESSION SPONSOR: Bella Books

Saturday, July 24th

11:00AM - 12:55PM Eastern Time Zone

MASTER CLASS: Blurred Lines: Bending Genres to Improve Your Craft

Reviews from major review outlets praise work that bends, blurs, and blends genre, but what does this mean for writers of queer fiction? How can we bend

genre to create stories that redefine what it means to write WLW in today's market? Whether you write contemporary romance, mystery, literary fiction, YA, speculative fiction, horror, or erotica, exploring genre conventions and how we can blur these lines can take our fiction to the next level.

Instructor: Anna Burke

1:00PM - 1:55PM Eastern Time Zone

Author Spotlight

AUTHORS: Jean Copeland, Carolyn Elizabeth, Paula Martinac, CJ Murphy, Radclyffe, Michele M. Reynolds

MODERATOR: Anne Hagan

SESSION SPONSOR: Flashpoint Publications

2:00PM - 2:55PM Eastern Time Zone

PANEL: From the Page to Your Ears: Audiobook Narrators

It's no secret that audiobooks have skyrocketed in popularity over the last decade. Audiobooks have given the multitasker, work commuter, cross country road tripper, and those who fare better with audio than visual an entertaining way to enjoy literature when they otherwise may not have the time or ability. Did you know that many audiobook narrators are trained, professional actors? Learn the behind the scenes of audiobook narration in this panel of well-known narrators of women-loving-women audiobooks.

PANELISTS: Abby Craden, Angela Dawe, Ann Etter, PJ Morgan, Lori Prince

MODERATOR: Maria Peña

SESSION SPONSOR: Lynn Ames

3:00PM - 3:55PM Eastern Time Zone

PANEL: The Ann(e)s on Naming Names

Ever wonder how authors come up with some of those great character names, memorable place names and catchy book titles? What are the names

VIRTUAL CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

that stick in the minds of readers? Six Ann(e)s chat with you about what's in a name.

PANELISTS: Ann Aptaker, Anne Geary, Anne Laughlin, Ann Roberts, Anne Shade

MODERATOR: Anne Hagan

SESSION SPONSOR: iReadIndies.com

4:00PM - 4:55PM Eastern Time Zone

PANEL: Where Everybody Knows Your Name: Writing Queer Communities

Join these queer authors writing about tight-knit communities where the status quo is LGBTQ for a discussion about writing the world the way we want it to be (where the status quo is LGBTQ rather than straight).

PANELISTS: Ashley Bartlett, Georgia Beers, Melissa Brayden, Radclyffe, Aurora Rey

MODERATOR: Carsen Taite

SESSION SPONSOR: Sandy Thornton

Sunday, July 25th

11:00AM - 11:55AM Eastern Time Zone

PRESENTATION: Big Things, Small Packages

Writing flash hones your writing skills, teaching the important art of the economy of words. Flash stretches the creative impulse and is beneficial for poets, short story writers, and novelists alike. If you've always wanted to master flash fiction or you want to hone your already considerable flash skills, this is the place for you.

PRESENTER: Finnian Burnett

SESSION SPONSOR: iReadIndies.com

12:00PM - 12:55PM Eastern Time Zone

PANEL: Yesterday Once More: The Uses of Historical Fiction

Why do we read and write about the past? What does imagining queer women in history do for us as modern readers and authors? A panel of writers and readers discuss why making connections with the past through historical stories is vitally important, even when the women in those stories have lives and identities different from our own.

PANELISTS: Lynn Ames, Heather Jones, Catherine Lundoff, Penny Mickelbury, Bonnie Morris

MODERATOR: Cindy Rizzo

1:00PM - 1:55PM Eastern Time Zone

PANEL: Much More than a Feeling

What makes readers connect to characters? Quirks, flaws, circumstances? All of that would be lost without an emotional character arc, a journey just as important as any plot or trope. Come hear writers from different genres unearth the secrets of how they create emotional resonance, otherwise known as making real people feel real feelings for fake people.

PANELISTS: Georgia Beers, Patrice James, Sam Ledel, Radclyffe, Carsen Taite

MODERATOR: Barbara Ann Wright

SESSION SPONSOR: Karin Kallmaker

2:00PM - 2:55PM Eastern Time Zone

Author Spotlight

AUTHORS: Jaime Clevenger, Ocean Cocco, Charlotte Greene, Sandra de Helen, Robyn Nyx, Sheri Lewis Wohl

MODERATOR: Aurora Rey

3:00PM - 3:55PM Eastern Time Zone

PANEL: Art Imitating Life: Harder Truths and Not-So-Happy Endings

Crime fiction doesn't always deliver a happy ending, but it must end with an emotional truth. A great protagonist with the odds stacked against him/her, still striving to obtain a measure of justice, restoration, or redemption, can take the reader on an adventure to find that truth. Join a lively discussion with popular crime and mystery authors on how to realistically depict contemporary or historic social/economic/political injustices while crafting a compelling story.

PANELISTS: Ann Aptaker, Ashley Bartlett, Stefani Deoul, Cheryl A. Head, Ann McMan

MODERATOR: MB Austin

4:00PM - 4:55PM Eastern Time Zone

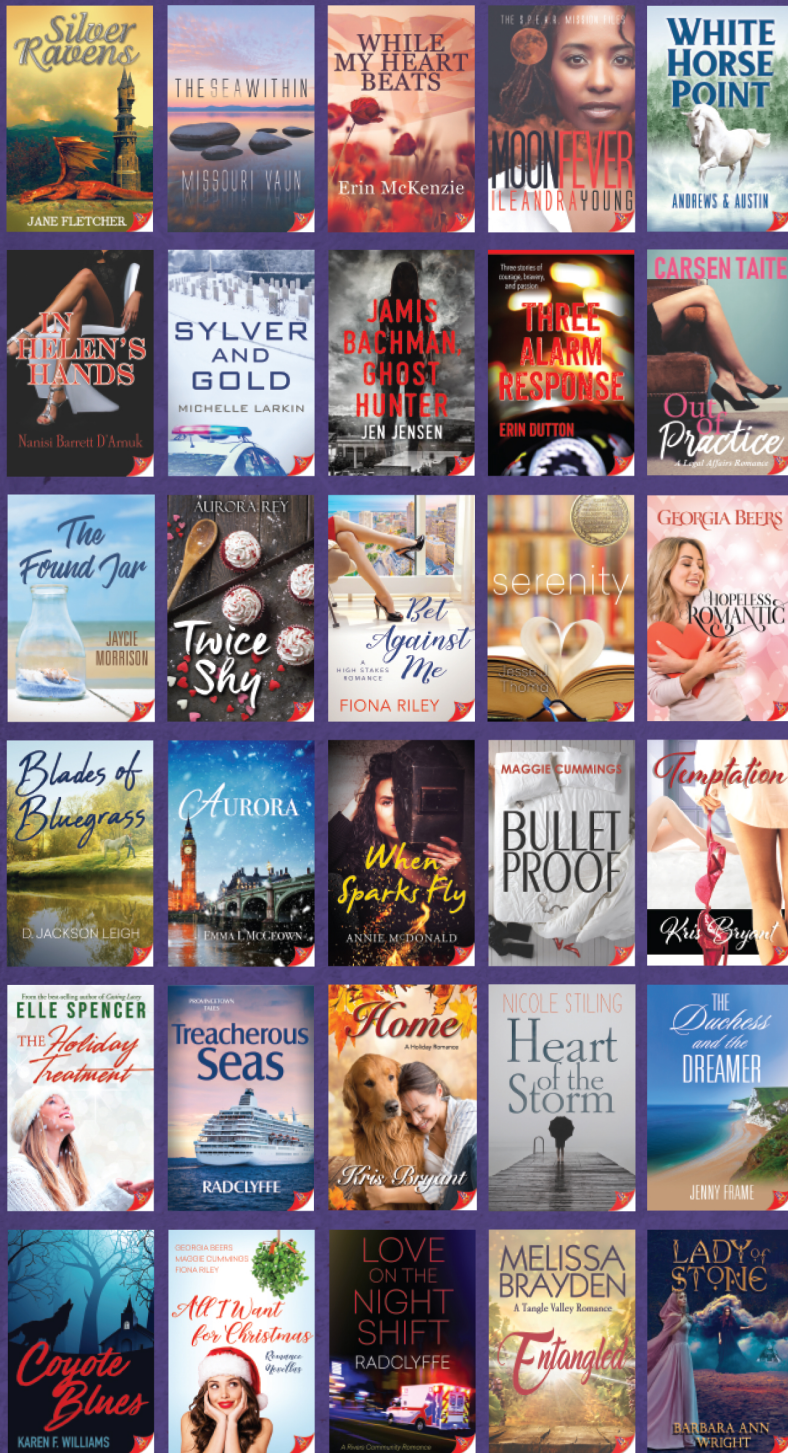
Author Spotlight

AUTHORS: Jessie Chandler, Jane DiLucchio, Judy Kerr, Anne Laughlin, Catherine Maiorisi, Ann Roberts

MODERATOR: RJ Samuel

CONGRATULATIONS

to our finalists for the 2021 Goldie Awards!



Contemporary Romance (Short Novels)

Home by Kris Bryant
Out of Practice by Carsen Taite
The Holiday Treatment by Elle Spencer
When Sparks Fly by Annie McDonald

Contemporary Romance (Mid-Length Novels)

Aurora by Emma L McGeown
Blades of Bluegrass by D. Jackson Leigh
Bulletproof by Maggie Cummings
Hopeless Romantic by Georgia Beers
Love on the Night Shift by Radclyffe
Serenity by Jesse J. Thoma
Temptation by Kris Bryant
The Duchess and the Dreamer by Jenny Frame
Twice Shy by Aurora Rey

Contemporary Romance (Long Novels)

Bet Against Me by Fiona Riley
Entangled by Melissa Brayden
The Found Jar by Jaycie Morrison

Debut Novel

Aurora by Emma L McGeown

Erotic Novel

In Helen's Hands by Nanisi Barrett D'Arnuik

Fiction Anthologies/Collections

All I Want for Christmas by Georgia Beers,
 Maggie Cummings, Fiona Riley
Three Alarm Response by Erin Dutton

Historical Fiction

While My Heart Beats by Erin McKenzie

Paranormal/Occult/Horror

Coyote Blues by Karen F. Williams
Jamis Bachman, Ghost Hunter by Jen Jensen
White Horse Point by Andrews & Austin

Romantic Blend

Heart of the Storm by Nicole Stiling
Sylver and Gold by Michelle Larkin
Treacherous Seas by Radclyffe

Science Fiction/Fantasy

Lady of Stone by Barbara Ann Wright
Silver Ravens by Jane Fletcher
The Sea Within by Missouri Vaun

Tee Corinne Award for Outstanding Cover Art

Moon Fever by Ileandra Young
 (cover by Jeanine Henning)

VIRTUAL CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

Weekend 4 Sponsor **Bella Books**

[view sponsor video](#)



Friday, July 30th

6:00PM - 6:55PM Eastern Time Zone

PANEL: Queered Retellings: Reclaiming Fairy Tales, Myths, and Legends

Any trip to the bookstore or library reveals that fairy tales, myths, and legends are retold constantly. These retellings reveal changing societal values, and can also be used as a way to reclaim not only queer history, but the stories we tell about our world. We'll explore how WLW writers approach retellings and what these stories mean to them and their readers.

PANELISTS: Karin Kallmaker, N.E. Orlowa, Anne Shade, Brey Willows, Barbara Ann Wright

MODERATOR: Anna Burke

SESSION SPONSOR: Lynn Ames

7:00PM - 7:55PM Eastern Time Zone

PANEL: It's Never Too Late

Dreaming of being a writer? But think you're too old? Think again. Authors who started publishing when they were fifty years or older share their journey. What makes someone over fifty decide to try and get published so late in life? Learn how the varied choices they made along the way fit their lifestyles, and what keeps them writing today.

PANELISTS: Suzie Clarke, Ellen Hoil, Catherine Maiorisi, McGee Mathews, L.L. Shelton, Nance Sparks

MODERATOR: Cheryl A. Head

SESSION SPONSOR: KG MacGregor

8:00PM - 8:55PM Eastern Time Zone

Author Spotlight

Meredith Doench, Rachel Gold, Genevieve McCluer, Jaycie Morrison, Cindy Rizzo, Lauren Emily Whalen

MODERATOR: Susan X Meagher

Saturday, July 31st

10:00AM-10:55AM Eastern Time Zone

INFORMATION SESSION: Be Heard. We are Listening

The GCLS has a newly formed Diversity and Inclusion Committee! Join us to share your ideas that you'd like to see in our organization to help promote and create more diversity, equity, and inclusion that can be felt and seen by all. Here you'll meet some of the committee members working hard to help GCLS fulfill its mission of being inclusive to all who support women-loving-women literature.

LEADER: Maria Peña, Director of Diversity & Inclusion

GROUP: Celeste Castro, Jae, Regina Jamison, Rae D. Magdon, Amanda Radley, Karen Richard, Cindy Rizzo, Anne Shade, Tagan Shepard, Dillon Watson, Sheryl Wright

11:00AM - 11:55AM Eastern Time Zone

PRESENTATION: Silencing the Noise and Freeing the Writer Within

Almost every class or book about writing acknowledges that everyone has to discover their own process to get to the end of a draft. But more often than not, the challenges neuro-atypical people (those with anxiety, depression, ADHD, ASD) face along the path to achieving a finished manuscript are never mentioned. What's easy or straightforward for others--writing, editing, formatting, and submitting a manuscript-- is like building a house without being able to read blueprints. Completing manuscripts and submitting them isn't always easy, but it can be done, and I hope that this presentation will convince others that sharing their stories with the world is possible.

PRESENTER: Brenda Murphy



VIRTUAL CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

12:00PM - 12:55PM Eastern Time Zone

PANEL: Career Shift to WLW Fiction Writer—How and Why?

The members of the panel all left career roles—some budding, some long-established -- to become full-time WLW fiction writers. How did they do it, and why? Did it work out as they had planned, and what difference has it made in their lives? The panel members will discuss both the practicalities of making that shift and the less tangible elements, such as a change in public identity.

PANELISTS: Jae, Clare Ashton, Melissa Brayden, Jody Klaire, Susan X Meagher, RJ Samuel

MODERATOR: Avery Brooks

SESSION SPONSOR: Ylva Publishing

1:00PM - 1:55PM Eastern Time Zone

Author Spotlight

AUTHORS: Anna Burke, Luci Dreamer, McGee Mathews, Jesse René, Tagan Shepard

MODERATOR: Finnian Burnett

2:00PM - 2:55PM Eastern Time Zone

PANEL: Escapism vs. Real Life: When Writers Write About Heavy Subjects

Some stories are written to help people escape reality, but what about the stories that delve deep into the intricacies of real life? Pain, loss, trauma, otherness. A panel of writers will discuss how they do justice to tough topics and complex, realistic characters, as well as what pitfalls to avoid.

PANELISTS: Jae, Avery Brooks, Penny Mickelbury, Ali Vali, Sheryl Wright

MODERATOR: Kimberly Cooper Griffin

SESSION SPONSOR: Ylva Publishing

3:00PM - 3:55PM Eastern Time Zone

Author Spotlight

AUTHORS: Lila Bruce, Mary P. Burns, Jane Kolven, JB Marsden, Susan X Meagher, Jamey Moody

MODERATOR: Cindy Rizzo

SESSION SPONSOR: iReadIndies.com

4:00PM Eastern Time Zone

GOLDIE AWARDS CEREMONY

17th Annual Goldie Awards

Saturday, July 31
4 p.m. EST

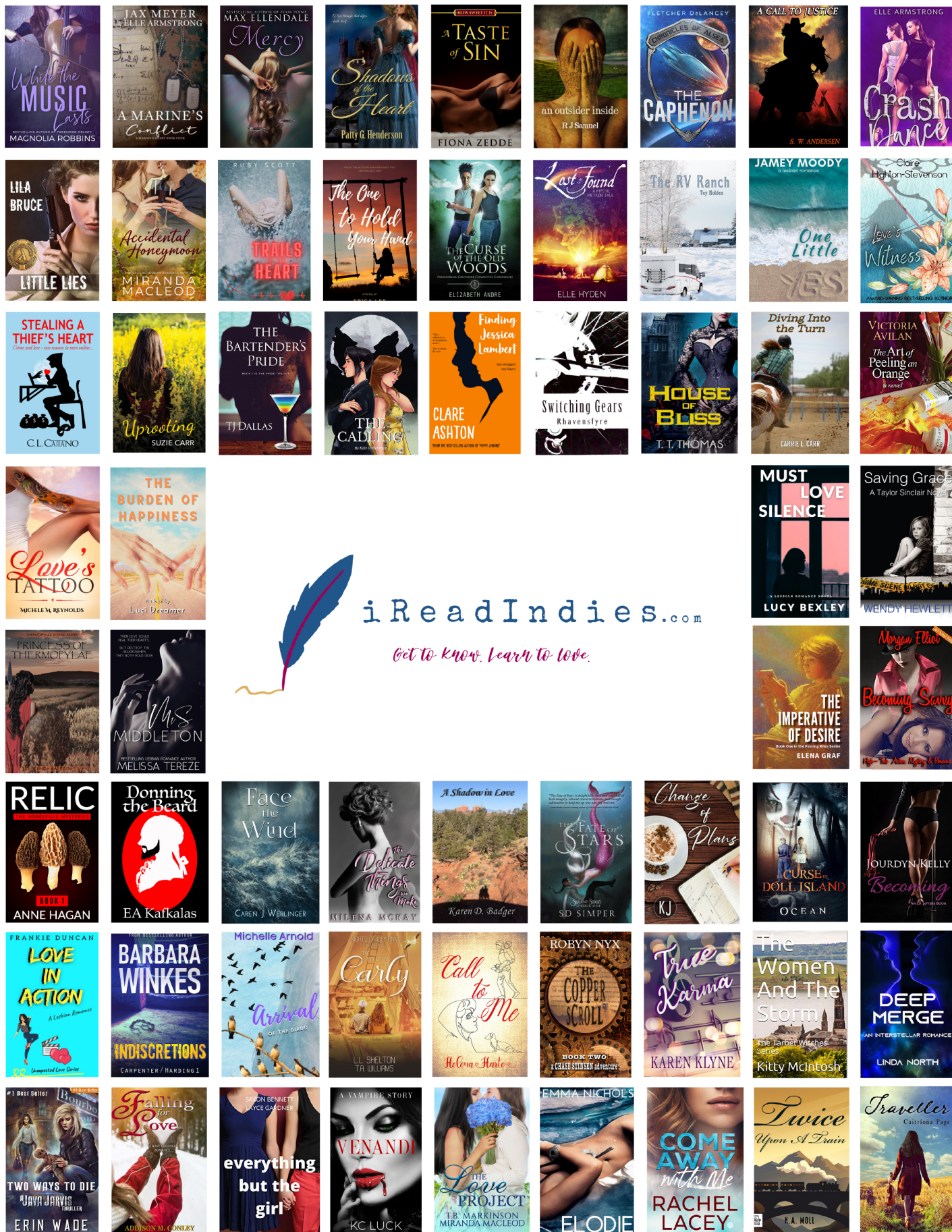


“BREATHLESSLY COURAGEOUS” —CHERYL A. HEAD

BETWEEN A ROCK AND A SOFT PLACE

SELECTED WORKS BY RENÉE BESS





LOST SISTERS



Marti Babbitt



Ivy Bottini



Madeline Davis



Alix Dobkin



Joan Drury



Kay (Tobin) Lahusen



Virginia Mollenkott



Deb Price



Joan Schenkar

Complete biographies appear on pages 82-83.



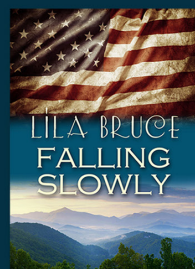
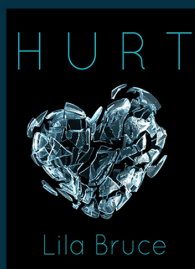
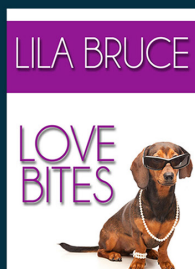
2017 Lambda Literary Finalist
Lesbian Romance

Coming Fall 2021



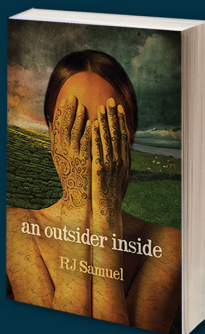
2020 Goldie Award Finalist
Paranormal/Occult/Horror

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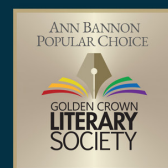


R J SAMUEL Authors LILA BRUCE

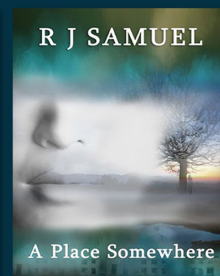
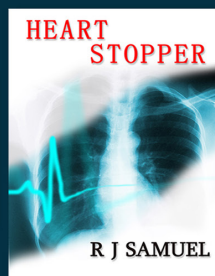
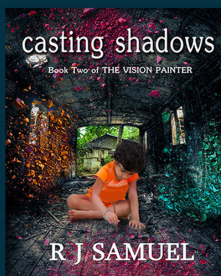
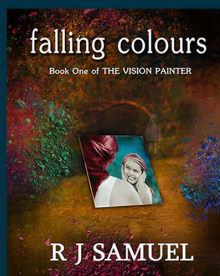
2018 Golden Crown Literary Society
Tee Corinne COVER DESIGN Award Winner



2018 Golden Crown Literary Society
Ann Bannon POPULAR CHOICE Award Winner



www.rjsamuel.com



The GCLS Writing Academy

Congratulates the Class of 2021 Graduates

**Cade Haddock Strong
Cara Cilento
Charlotte Paige
CJ O'Hara
J. Torres
Jesse René**

**Kate Gavin
L.L. Shelton
Lori G. Matthews
Luci Dreamer
Mcgee Mathews
Michele Brower**

**Nan Campbell
N. E. Orlowa
Rita Potter
Susan Green
Suzanne Lenoir
Tagan Shepard**

**And a big thank you to all our faculty and mentors who provided
our students with an excellent foundation for their writing.**

Faculty: Anna Burke, Penny Mickelbury, Karelia Stetz-Waters, Finnian Burnett

Mentors: E.J. Noyes, Radclyffe, Aurora Rey, KG Macgregor, Susan X Meagher,
Carsen Taite, Isabella, Ali Vali, Barbara Ann Wright, Jae, Anna Burke, Finnian
Burnett, Rae D. Magdon. Cheryl A. Head, Rachel Spangler, Hilary Zaid, KC Luck

Guest Teachers: Shamin Sarif, R.J. Samuel, Sheree L. Greer, Emily August,
Mercedes Lewis, Gar McVey-Russell, Cheryl A. Head, Radclyffe,
Melissa Brayden, Sheryl Wright

Tech and Video Support: Joy Van Stralen

Content Creation/Blog Administrator: C.L. Taylor

If you are interested in learning how to hone your writing skills
and produce the best work you can, please visit:

www.goldencrown.org/WA

Please contact us for information on scholarship availability
or if you have any further questions.

wa-support@goldencrown.org



Where writing dreams become written realities.

2021 ANNIVERSARIES

Five Year Anniversary

Genevieve Fortin	Vivian Jones	Dian Sierra	Desarae Holland
Silke Annelore Haist	Michelle Hagans	Laurel Nett	Kimberly Cooper Griffin
Paula Martinac	Linda Readerman	Kim Warren	Julie Tizard
Christy Case	Fay Jacobs	Becky Arbogast	Ruth Sternglantz
MB Austin	Lisa Moreau	Emily Dziuban	Dena Blake
Anna Burke	E.J. Cochrane	EA Kafkalas	Dolores Maggiore
Marti Babbitt	Maggie Cummings	Hilde Raastad	Tricia Altzer
Jaycie Morrison	Fiona Riley	CL Taylor	Kristianne Galpin
Donna Ford	Priscilla Rhoades	Brenda Brown	Andy Meadeson
Jackie D	Jeannie Levig	Franci McMahon	Lou Anne Smoot
Amy Barr	Lissa Brown	Angela Brooks	Karen Williams
JJ Crabb	Stefani Deoul	Barbara Ann Wright	Maria Peña
Meredith Doench	Bonnie Morris	Millie Ireland	Ted Beveridge
Cheryl Pletcher	Alissa McGowan	Emily Noyes	Ocean Cocco
Patrice James	Michelle Pond	Ameliah Ryan	Lena Smith
Tracey Dodd	Hilary McCollum	Cameron MacElvee	Paula Tighe

10 Year Anniversary

Nelda Ireland	Virginia Fielder	Melissa Brayden	Salem West
Catherine Wilson	Mary Lou Heintz	Sharon Clark	Trish Devine
Denise Judge	Renee MacKenzie	Susan Osborne	Baxter Clare Trautman
Ann Roberts	Sheila Pearsons	Liz McMullen	

15 Year Anniversary

Patricia Hansen	Jessie Chandler	Catherine Friend	VK Powell
Renée Bess	Ann Bannon	Elaine Lynch	Catherine Rowlands
Mary Ann Bosworth	Erica L. Collins	Sacchi Green	

WRITING DREAMS. WRITTEN REALITIES.

The Writing Academy is grateful to the private donors who allow us to offer these full scholarships to the academy each year.

THE ERICA ABBOTT SCHOLARSHIP

This Scholarship will be awarded each year to one student of the GCLS Writing Academy whose intention is to write in the Mystery genre.

The chosen recipient will receive one full tuition to the GCLS Writing Academy for the appropriate year.

THE BRIDGE BUILDER SCHOLARSHIP

This Scholarship is offered to a writer of color who shows talent and drive in creating women-loving-women literature. The chosen recipient will receive one full tuition to the GCLS Writing Academy for the appropriate year and individual one-on-one mentoring with a well-established writer.

THE SANDRA MORAN SCHOLARSHIP

This scholarship will be awarded each year to one student of the GCLS Writing Academy. The chosen recipient will receive one full tuition to the GCLS Writing Academy for the appropriate year and individual one-on-one mentoring with a well-established writer.



Information on each of these opportunities can be found at

<http://www.goldencrown.org/scholarships>

2021 PARTICIPANT BIOGRAPHIES

KAY ACKER

Kay Acker grew up in northern Alabama and lives in southern Vermont. She and her wife play tabletop games with friends and enjoy the daily antics of two cats. Her first novel, *Leaving's Not the Only Way to Go*, will be released by Bella Books in 2021.

[Website](#) [Email](#) [Facebook](#) [Twitter](#)

JANE ALDEN

Jane Alden writes romance and mystery stories. Her new novel from Desert Palm Press, *The Crystal's Curse*, is a murder mystery inspired by a Nile river boat vacation she and her partner of thirty years, Donna, took two years ago. The book, her fourth, is a Goldie finalist this year. *Jobyna's Blues*, her second book, won the Lesfic Bard Award for Fiction in 2020. Jane, Donna, and their two-year-old black lab, Lilly, live in Claremont in Southern California, across the street from Pomona College. Go Sagehens!

[Website](#) [Email](#) [Facebook](#)

JENN ALEXANDER

Jenn Alexander lives in Alberta, Canada where she works as a psychologist and an award-winning romance author. She currently has two novels published, and is hard at work on more. When she's not writing, she spends her time playing the drums, hiking, and spending time with her family.

[Website](#) [Email](#) [Facebook](#) [Twitter](#)
[Instagram](#)

LYNN AMES

Lynn Ames is the best-selling author of 16 books. She is a six-time Goldie Award winner, a two-time Lammy Award finalist, a Foreword INDIES Book of the Year Award finalist, a Writer's Digest Book Awards honorable mention recipient, and winner of the Ann Bannon Award for Popular Fiction. For more than half a decade, she was an award-winning broadcast journalist. She is a former press secretary to the New York state senate minority leader, spokesperson for the

nation's third-largest prison system, and a nationally recognized speaker and public relations professional with an expertise in branding and image.

[Website](#) [Email](#) [Facebook](#) [Twitter](#)
[Instagram](#)

S.W. ANDERSON

From old west gunslingers to love that transcends time and space, S.W. Andersen writes best-selling Sapphic romances where love knows no bounds. Having been raised by her mother, a strong female character in her own right, she has always been attracted to stories that depicted independent, determined, capable women. A romantic at heart, her characters are rooted in hope and perseverance. When she isn't working or writing, she enjoys outdoor activities and traveling with her wife and best friend of twenty-four years. They share their ten acres in rural Florida with a rambunctious crew of dogs, cats, and horses.

[Website](#) [Email](#) [Facebook](#)
[Instagram](#)

DIANE ANDERSON-MINSHALL

Diane Anderson-Minshall is queer, Indigenous mixed-race journalist, editor, author, and activist. The (first woman) CEO of Pride Media, the largest LGBTQ+ media company in the U.S., she serves as editorial director of *Out*, *The Advocate*, *Plus & OutTraveler* magazines and *Pride.com*. She is also on-air host and director of *Pride Today*, a daily news and entertainment video series. She's also author of *Punishment With Kisses*, and co-author of the Blind Eye mystery series (*Blind Curves*, *Blind Faith*, and *Blind Leap*) and the Goldie-winning memoir, *Queerly Beloved: A Love Story across Genders* (all from Bold Strokes Books).

[Email](#) [Facebook](#) [Twitter](#) [Instagram](#)

ANDREWS & AUSTIN

Andrews grew up on her grandmother's horse ranch in Oklahoma. Austin spent time on her aunt's cattle ranch in New Mexico. Andrews & Austin now live on their own ranch on

the prairie with Icelandic horses, Australian shepherds and a calico cat. The authors began their writing careers in Los Angeles where they developed a reputation for fast-moving story lines, strong characters, and witty dialogue, a style that's carried over into their romance novels and mysteries. When they're not writing, the duo coach women executives on leadership that includes owning their equality, money, power and sex.

[Website](#) [Email](#)

MAVIS APPLEWATER

Boston native Mavis Applewater started writing at the request of a very wise woman; she claims that is why she married her. She is the author of seven full length novels, *The Brass Ring*, *My Sisters Keeper*, *Tempus Fugit*, Goldie Winner *Whispering Pines*, *Finding My Way*, *The Plaza and Checkmate* the second *Caitlin Calloway Mystery*. She has also penned four collections of shorts stories including *Home for The Holidays* Goldie Finalist for best Erotica. She is looking forward to the release of *Remember When*, *Blair's Bounty*, *Murielle Island* and *Playland* the first *Harper Winston* thriller.

[Website](#) [Email](#) [Facebook](#) [Twitter](#)
[Instagram](#)

ANN APTAKER

Ann Aptaker's Cantor Gold mystery series has won Lambda and Goldie Awards. Her short stories have appeared in the *Fedora* anthology, *Switchblade Magazine*, the *Mickey Finn* anthology, and *Black Cat Mystery Magazine*. She is one of six writers invited to provide a novella for Down & Out Books' crime series *Guns & Tacos*. Her flash fiction, "Rockin'

2021 PARTICIPANT BIOGRAPHIES

Dyke Roll," is featured in the Goldie winning anthology *Our Happy Hours: LGBT Voices From The Gay Bars*.

When not writing or indulging in her passion for art, there's nothing Ann likes better than the pleasures of ice cream and old movies.

[Website](#) [Email](#) [Facebook](#) [Twitter](#)
[Instagram](#)

CLARE ASHTON

Clare Ashton is an award-winning author of lesbian and WLW romances and mysteries. She grew up in Mid Wales and the Shropshire borders, home to her heroines in *Poppy Jenkins* and *The Goodmans*. Her other works are also UK set and no matter the genre her books always have a sense of a puzzle unravelling and the setting is like another character. Her most recent romance, *Finding Jessica Lambert*, was shortlisted for a Lambda Literary Award and Goldie.

[Website](#) [Twitter](#)

K. ATEN

K. Aten lives in Michigan with her wife, two kids, two cats, and a dog. She's published more than a dozen novels across multiple genres since 2018, and is currently penning for Flashpoint Publications. She loves fanfic, gravitates toward speculative fiction in both reading and writing, and will talk your ear off about books. Kelly's goal with each new novel is to make people #Think, #Feel, and #Discuss. "Some words end the silence, others begin it." 2019 GCLS Goldie winner: *Waking the Dreamer* – SciFi 2019 Lesfic Bard Award winner: *Burn It Down* – Drama

[Website](#) [Email](#) [Facebook](#) [Twitter](#)
[Instagram](#)

EMILY AUGUST

Emily August is an associate professor of literature at Stockton University, where she teaches courses in 19th-century British literature and culture, medical humanities, literatures of crime and detection, and creative writing. Her scholarly research

examines literary, clinical, and visual representations of the body, and the role of the sciences in perpetuating violence against the body. Her poems explore domestic violence and intergenerational trauma. Her poems have been nominated and shortlisted for several prizes, and have appeared in *Callaloo*, *Cimarron Review*, *Missouri Review*, *Ninth Letter*, *Southern Humanities Review*, and other journals.

[Twitter](#) [Instagram](#)

MB AUSTIN

MB increasingly finds herself in a past that never was, within a questionably utopian (but unquestionably genderqueer) 1850s Mediterranean. She intends to keep visiting the Trencadis universe until the present better resembles it. MB Austin's contemporary thrillers feature Maji Rios, a counter-terrorism covert operator whose work intrudes on every vacation she attempts. Someday she'll get both downtime and the woman of her dreams. MB lives with her wife in Seattle, an excellent town for caffeine-powered writers who don't need too much sun.

[Website](#) [Email](#) [Facebook](#) [Twitter](#)
[Instagram](#)

SANDRA BARRET

Sandra Barret is a native New Englander who wanted to be an archaeologist. So of course she ended up a writer. She focuses her fiction writing on science fiction and fantasy stories where strong women save the day. Two of her books (*Eye of the Damned* and *Face of the Enemy*) were Goldie finalists. When not writing, she's reading, gardening, and occasionally digging holes too deep in the back of her historic home in the hopes of finding something more archaeologically significant than coal slag. Dreams never die, they just adapt to life circumstances!

[Website](#) [Email](#) [Facebook](#) [Twitter](#)
[Instagram](#)

NANISI BARRETT D'ARNUK

Nanisi Barrett D'ArnuK had a successful music career and performed and traveled around the world several times. She holds the distinction of being the first open lesbian to conduct on the stage of D.A.R. Constitution Hall in Washington, DC. Nanisi has lived in the North East, the Pacific Northwest and the Central South. When M.S. curtailed traveling and performing, she turned to her writing. She has written mysteries, romances, and erotica. She now lives on thirty acres of wooded land in South Central Oklahoma with her partner, their family, five dogs and a flock of chickens.

[Website](#) [Email](#) [Facebook](#)

GEORGIA BEERS

Georgia Beers spends her days in Upstate New York writing, reading, and dreaming about women-loving-women romance. In her off-hours, she can usually be found searching for a scary movie, sipping a good Pinot Noir, snuggling with her cat, Emmett, or trying to keep up with little big man Archie, her mix of many tiny dogs.

[Website](#) [Email](#) [Facebook](#) [Twitter](#)
[Instagram](#)

SALLY BELLEROSE

Sally Bellerose is the author of *Fishwives* and *The Girls Club*. She was awarded a Writing Fellowship from the NEA. Excerpts from her novels have won the Saints and Sinners Award, the Rick De Marinis Award, the Writers at Work Award, and a Barbara Deming Award. Her novels have been finalists for the James Jones Fellowship, the Thomas Wolfe Prize, The Backspace Scholarship, a Lambda Literary Award, an Independent Publishers Award, and a Golden Crown Literary Society Award. Sally loves to mess with awkward emotion, humor, and transcendence. She writes about class, sexuality, gender, illness, absurdity, and lately, growing old.

[Website](#) [Email](#) [Facebook](#)
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WOMEN WITH PRIDE BOOK CLUB

Facilitated in partnership with GoldenCrown Literary Society, Resource Center's Women with Pride Book Club meets monthly to discuss women-loving-women fiction with the author in attendance. Join us to discuss great books and meet new friends!

Women with Pride is one of the only programs in North Texas that engages LGBTQ+ women age 18+ through activities, events and outings designed to provide social engagement.

CONTACT US

214-540-4475

women@myresourcecenter.org

myresourcecenter.org/womenwpride

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ADDRESS

Community Center
5750 Cedar Springs Rd.
Dallas, TX 75235



2021 PARTICIPANT BIOGRAPHIES

DOROTHY RICE BENNETT

Growing up near the Indy 500 race track, young Dorothy Rice Bennett began writing stories in grade school. After earning four college degrees, she had two careers: as a family therapist and a journalist. Once married and mother of an adopted daughter, she lives with her partner and two toy poodles on Washington's Olympic Peninsula where she now focuses on writing. Her five published lesbian romances feature beautiful locales, funny and inspiring stories, and complex characters who are sorting out their identities or learning how to form committed relationships. Her in-progress novel is her first sequel.

[Website](#) [Facebook](#) [Twitter](#)

TAMMY BIRD

Prior to March 12, 2020, Tammy Bird could be found doing one of three things: writing, reading, or playing with a grandchild. Living in the upside down has changed all of that, but

she is full of hope for the future and a return to coffeeshops, flowing words, and sweet hugs. Writing a novel was a lifelong dream that she thought would never come true. However, at 55 years young, Tammy's first psychological thriller, *Sandman*, made her dream a reality, and *Book of Promises* followed the next year. Her motto: "Never say never!"

[Website](#) [Email](#) [Facebook](#) [Twitter](#)
[Instagram](#)

SERENA J. BISHOP

Serena J. Bishop writes witty, character-driven novels with romance and societal issues blended to create unique storylines. Since her first novel, *Beards*, was published in 2017, she has been with Eos Publishing. In 2020, *Leveled*, a romantic-comedy about the effects of family and anxiety on relationships was released. Even more exciting (at least to Serena), is her *Dreams* trilogy. The next book in the sci-fi/fantasy-romance saga, *Miracles*,

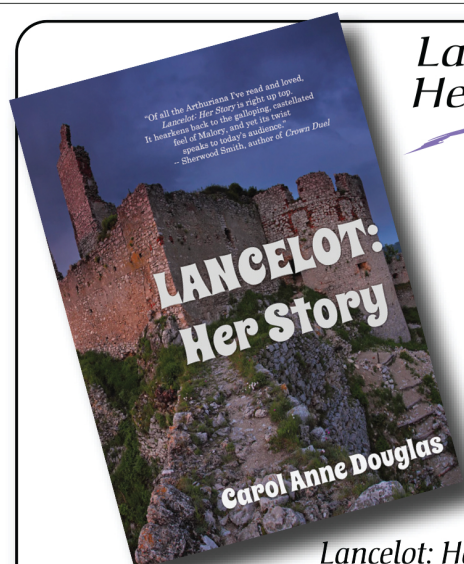
will be released in the Fall of 2021, and *Heroes* in 2022 (she hopes). Serena lives in Maryland with her wife and chihuahua.

[Website](#) [Email](#) [Facebook](#) [Twitter](#)
[Instagram](#)

DENA BLAKE

Dena Blake is an eternal optimist, would-be chef, tech nerd, and occasional auto mechanic. Her books are steamy, sometimes funny, and always full of angst. Dena's first novel, *Where the Light Glows*, is a Rainbow Award winner for Best Lesbian Debut. Her third novel, *A Country Girl's Heart* was a 2019 Goldie finalist. Her current novel, *Next Exit Home*, is a story of one woman's journey into her past to find home in a place where she never felt she could. Home may be where the heart is but the journey back might not be worth the pain.

[Website](#) [Email](#) [Facebook](#) [Twitter](#)
[Instagram](#)



Lancelot: Her Story

Lancelot and Guinevere

By CAROL ANNE DOUGLAS
www.carolannedouglas.com

Lancelot is a lesbian in disguise. *Lancelot: Her Story* is both ingenious and suspenseful in its reworking of the tapestry of medieval times through a feminist prism.

Katherine V. Forrest,
author of *Curious Wine*.

Lancelot: Her Story and its sequel, *Lancelot and Guinevere*, are available in print from Hermione Books at: caroldouglas12@gmail.com or in print and eBook at amazon.com.

Carol Anne's YA fantasies, *Merlin's Shakespeare* and its sequel, *The Mercutio Problem*, are available from those sources plus in ebook from Kobo, IBooks, and B&N.

An audio of *Merlin's Shakespeare* is also available on Audible, Amazon, and iTunes.



2021 PARTICIPANT BIOGRAPHIES

KIM TAYLOR BLAKEMORE

Kim is the author of the Amazon best-selling historical thrillers *AFTER ALICE FELL*; *THE COMPANION*, a current finalist for the Goldie Award and Women's Fiction Writers Association Star Award; *BOWERY GIRL*; and Willa Cather Literary Award winner *CISSY FUNK*. She is a recipient of a Tucson Festival of Books Literary Award, three Regional Arts and Culture Council grants, is the founder of the writing organization Novelitics, and is a member of International Thriller Writers, Historical Novel Society, Mystery Writers of America and Sisters in Crime. Her novel *THE DECEPTION* will be released Fall 2022 from Lake Union Publishing.

[Website](#) [Email](#) [Instagram](#)

BECKY BOHAN

Becky Bohan's latest novel, *A Light on Altered Land*, ventures into literary romance as it explores issues like ageism, medicinal cannabis, the erasure of lesbian culture, and love in one's mature years. Becky has also published the suspense novel *Sinister Paradise* set in Greece and the novel *Fertile Betrayal* about a small-town veterinarian. Becky co-authored with her wife, Nancy Manahan, the non-fiction, award-winning *Living Consciously, Dying Gracefully: A Journey with Cancer and Beyond*. She has traveled widely and has left her native Minnesota for life in North Fort Myers, FL.

[Website](#) [Email](#)

BENNA BOS

Benna Bos mixes cozy mystery with engaging love stories. In *Investigating Helen*, which will be released in August 2021 by Flashpoint Publications, Benna plays on her love of place and her obsession with true crime podcasts. The book is the first in the *Murder by the Bay Mystery Series* illustrating that San Francisco is the setting she is most obsessed with—and it happens to be her current home. Benna loves to read, write, play with her dog, and go on road trips.

[Website](#) [Email](#)

MELISSA BRAYDEN

Melissa Brayden is the multi award winning author of nineteen contemporary romance novels and enjoying the ride. She's a dedicated storyteller on both the page and stage, having studied with the Royal Shakespeare Company in Stratford Upon Avon as well as Shakespeare's Globe Theatre in London. Though writing romance is her full time job, much of it is spent on coffee, wine, donuts, and staring off into space. Kissing scenes remain her favorite.

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[Instagram](#)

AMY BRIANT

Amy Briant writes novels and short stories. A native Californian, she is startled to find herself living on the East Coast. She was awarded a GCLS Goldie for Best Debut novelist and was a Goldie finalist for best Lesbian Paranormal Romance for *Shadow Point*, which also won a 2011 Alice B Committee Lavender Certificate. Her latest novel, *The Book Of Kell*, a post apocalyptic YA thriller, was selected by the American Library Association for their 2021 Rainbow Book List of 130 "of the best LGBTQIA+ (young adult) titles published in the USA & Canada."

[Website](#) [Email](#) [Facebook](#) [Twitter](#)

A.L. BROOKS

A.L. Brooks (she/her) was born in the UK but now lives in Frankfurt, Germany. She has published ten novels with Ylva Publishing. In 2017 she was a GCLS Goldie winner for her debut novel, *The Club*, and a Rainbow Awards winner with *Miles Apart*. In 2020 she was a GCLS Goldie finalist for her novel *The Long Shot*. She writes women-loving-women contemporary romance and erotica. In her spare time she has fun learning German and exploring her new homeland. Her latest novel, published late in 2020, is *A Heart to Trust*.

[Website](#) [Email](#) [Facebook](#) [Twitter](#)

AVERY BROOKS

Avery Brooks' debut novel, *Other Girls*, was a finalist for the GCLS Goldie Award in Contemporary Romance. She has a PhD in evolutionary biology and has served as a copy editor for multiple award-winning LGBTQ+ authors. When she's not busy writing, she enjoys advocating for social justice issues, hiking with her two dogs in Colorado, and rooting for the Saints.

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[Instagram](#)

LISSA BROWN

Lissa's writing career began when she published her work in a junior high newspaper, and it hasn't stopped. She's been a political speechwriter, a ghost writer for CEOs and elected officials, an award-winning columnist, and most recently, an award-winning author. Her books include a YA novel, *Family Secrets: Three Generations*, two novels about bullying of a gay boy, *Another F-Word* and *Family of Choice*, and her first lesbian mystery novel, *Filthy Money*. Her essays appear in a variety of anthologies, the most recent of which is *A Tether to This World*, published in May of 2021.

[Website](#) [Email](#) [Facebook](#) [Twitter](#)

LILA BRUCE

Lila Bruce makes her home in the hills of North Georgia with her wife and their eclectic assortment of cats. Lila is a 2016 (*Love Bites*) and 2017 (*Little Lies*) Rainbow Award Winner, a 2017 Lambda Literary Award Finalist (*Little Lies*), and a 2020 Goldie Award Finalist (*Chasing Shadows*). She loves to read and write w/l/w romances, consume unhealthy amounts of coffee, and has always been a sucker for a happy ending.

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2021 PARTICIPANT BIOGRAPHIES

SHAWN MARIE BRYAN

In addition to being a freelance media maven of all trades, Shawn Marie Bryan, Epistolarian, is also a writer of plays, memoirs, fiction, lists, and copy. She has an extensive background in theatre, broadcasting, libraries, radio, retail, and has been helping to bring audiobooks to life for over two decades. To honor those who had no other choice, Shawn Marie, as an homage of gratitude, also wrote under pen names. She will soon: publish new and republish some previous work, bring interactive reading to the interwebs, continue to foster her passions for sustainable gift wrap and miniatures.

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KRIS BRYANT

Multi-award-winning contemporary romance author Kris Bryant writes for Bold Strokes Books. Co-host of the podcast *Queerly Recommended*, Kris spends a lot of her spare time reading lesfic and binge-watching all things queer including movies and TV shows. Kris likes to bike trails, hang out with her friends and family, and spend the summers in her hammock.

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ANNA BURKE

Anna Burke is the award-winning author of *Compass Rose*, *Thorn*, *Nottingham*, *Spindrift*, and *Night Tide*. Her latest novel, *Sea Wolf*, will be released by Bywater Books in July 2021. She is the Director of Education for the GCLS Writing Academy and also teaches creative writing at Emerson College, where she received her MFA. When she is not reading, writing, or teaching, she can be found walking the woods with her dog. She and her wife live in Massachusetts.

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FINNIAN BURNETT

Finnian Burnett is a doctoral student and an MFA instructor. Finn runs the GCLS Writing Academy and will corner people at parties to talk about the thrill of finding the perfect story structure. Finn has published several novels, including a first place Writer's Digest Award winner. Their work has been published in *Stories Less Spoken*, *Flash Fiction Magazine*, and various anthologies. Finn is enamored with flash fiction and has published several micro pieces. They are currently working on a flash-in-novella project and a queer Shakespeare retelling. Finn lives in Canada with their wife and Lord Gordo, the chonker cat.

[Website](#) [Twitter](#)

MARY BURNS

After 43 years in New York City, Mary Burns thinks it's fair to claim she's a New Yorker. Her wife of 20 years, a retired teacher and actual native New Yorker, trumps that claim. Mary received a Master of Fine Arts in Playwriting from Columbia University in 1991. Her first novel, *Forging a Desire Line*, was published by Bold Strokes books in 2019. *Suspecting Her*, a second novel, will be released in Sept. '21. She has also published short stories in Sinclair Sexsmith's *Best Lesbian Erotica* Vols. 4 (Dec. '19) and 5 (Dec. '20).

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[Instagram](#)

JULIE CANNON

Julie Cannon divides her time by being a corporate suit, wife, mom, sister, friend and writer. Julie and her wife have lived in at least half a dozen states, traveled around the world and have an unending supply of dedicated friends. And of course, the most important people in their lives are their three kids, #1, Dude and the Diving Miss Em. With the release of *Summer Lovin'*, Julie will have twenty-one books published by Bold Strokes Books. Her first novel, *Come and Get Me*, was a finalist for the Golden

Crown Literary Society Best Lesbian Romance and Début Author Awards. Several of her books have additionally been finalists for the GCLS Best Lesbian Romance and *I Remember* won the GCLS Best Lesbian Romance in 2014. *Rescue Me* and *Wishing on a Dream* were finalists for Best Lesbian Romance from the prestigious Lambda Literary Society.

[Website](#) [Email](#)

SUZIE CARR

Suzie Carr has authored over a dozen novels and several books on writing, marketing, and productivity. She is a podcaster on *Curves Welcome* where she shares insights on life-hack topics. Suzie is passionate about promoting bisexual visibility within the LGBTQ community and enjoys writing about the beauty of women in love with other women.

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JESSIE CHANDLER

Jessie Chandler is the author of seven novels, including the humorously suspenseful *Shay O'Hanlon Caper Series*, and a bunch of short stories, usually involving her series characters, in various anthologies. Her crime fiction has garnered a Lambda Literary finalist nod, three Golden Crown Literary Awards, three USA Book Awards, one American Fiction Book Award, and an Independent Publisher Book Award. During non-Covid times, fall and winter finds Jessie feverishly writing, and she spends springtime knee deep in edits and revisions. Summers are spent selling T-shirts, books, and other assorted trinkets to unsuspecting conference and festivalgoers.

[Website](#) [Email](#)

LILY CHARLES

Lily Charles is the pseudonym of Charlene Ball and Libby Ware. Charlene is the author of *Dark Lady: A Novel of Emilia Bassano Lanyer* (She Writes Press, 2017). A former English

2021 PARTICIPANT BIOGRAPHIES

instructor, she sells antiquarian books with her wife Libby, whom she married in 2016. Libby's debut novel is *Lum* (She Writes Press, 2015). She is the owner of Toadlily Books and is a member of the Antiquarian Booksellers Association of America. She lives in Atlanta a mile from her wife Charlene. *Murder at the Estate Sale* is the first book in the Molly and Emma Booksellers Series.

[Website](#) [Email](#) [Facebook](#)

CARA CILENTO

Cara Cilento is a professional storyteller. Whether written or verbal, she captivates, enthralls and inspires. She speaks without apology, knowing she will honor what readers need. Whether it be a tale that applies to who we are, diverse characters, or engaging storylines, Cara will give you what is essential to you as a reader. Her first book, *Snapshots: Say Cheese The World Is Watching*, won the 2019 Living Now Award for Sexuality/Femininity. She has performed spoken word in the tri-state area, including the NYC LGBT Center. As the 2020 Sandra Moran Scholar, she is hoping to make GCLS proud.

SUZIE CLARKE

Novelist Suzie Clarke claims the great state of Ohio as her native state. She has a medical and business background, and before retiring and writing full-time, spent her career in public health as a county Health Commissioner in Ohio, working with families and women in all aspects of their lives. She grew up as a middle child, surrounded by brothers, which is why she loves a good laugh, being outside, and writing about strong women who know how to use a can opener.

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JAIME CLEVINGER

Jaime Clevenger lives in Colorado with an amazing wife and a boisterous family including kids and pets. They/she works as a veterinarian by day and writes lesfic at night. On days off, they

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all books available at amazon.com

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enjoy swimming, hiking, teaching karate, and reading. Jaime's books are published by Bella Books and mostly include romance with a side of family drama, angst and issues of intimacy.

[Email](#) [Facebook](#)

E.J. COCHRANE

E.J. Cochrane survived fifteen years as a college English teacher before calling it quits. Now she has a much less stressful career in retail. Under the pen name Blythe H. Warren, she's the Goldie-winning author of *My Best Friend's Girl*, *Bait and Switch* and *Hero(ine) Addict*. She also writes the Matilda Smithwick mysteries under her real name (and is currently writing Matilda's next adventure). She and her partner live with their ball-obsessed pit bull, Gonzo, and his feline fan club: Beatrix, Juniper and Aoife.

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ADDISON M. CONLEY

Addison M. Conley's work includes two romance novels, *Addie Mae* and *Falling for Love: A West Virginia Romance*, and a military action/romance novel *Beyond the Checkpoint*, based on her deployments to Afghanistan as an NGA Intel Analyst. In her current work in progress, *Cabin Fever*, the main character faces a journey of self-discovery and romance in Idaho (fall 2021 release date). Although Addison likes a HEA

ending, her characters go through a roller coaster ride to the finish. And her books always include multi-generational secondary characters. When not writing, you'll find her in the garden, reading, or taking photographs.

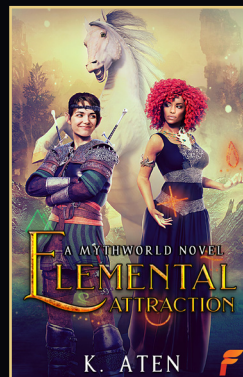
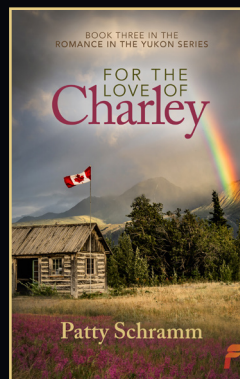
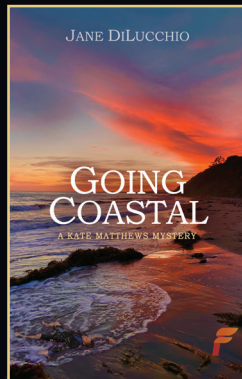
[Website](#) [Email](#) [Facebook](#)
[Twitter](#) [Instagram](#)

KIMBERLY COOPER GRIFFIN

Kimberly Cooper Griffin is an American author of award-winning lesbian romance and non-fiction writing books living in Denver, Colorado with her wife and daughters. Her novels explore the complexities of building relationships and finding balance when life has a tendency of getting in the way. Her lesbian romance work includes: *Can't Leave Love* (coming Oct 2021); *In the Cards*; *No Experience Required*; *Without a Net*; *Three Times the Charm*; Foreword Book of the Year Finalist, *Chasing Mercury*; and her debut novel and Foreword Review Book of the year winner, *Life in High Def*. Kimberly publishes with Bold Strokes Books.

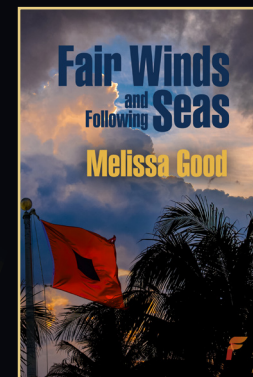
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JEAN COPELAND

Jean Copeland is a Connecticut author, English teacher, and the “feisty feminist” on *The Weekly Wine Down* podcast. A 2016 Goldie winner for her debut novel, *The Revelation of Beatrice Darby*, Jean writes lesfic in a variety of genres. Her latest novels *Swift Vengeance*, a collaboration with Jackie D and Erin Zak, and *Poison Pen* will be published in the summer of 2021. Feminism, activism, and cock-tailism are isms that are close to her heart, and she implores every human to adopt, don’t shop for your furry family members.

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[Instagram](#)

ABBY CRADEN

Abby Craden originates from New York but after many years on the West Coast, she now calls Los Angeles home. Ms. Craden has been performing and storytelling in all of its various forms for over twenty years. She has recorded hundreds of audio books—winning two Earphones Awards and named “One of the Best Voices of 2012” by *AudioFile Magazine*. Her voice can be heard in national commercials, animation, video games and many TV shows and films.

LINDA CRIST

Linda Crist is the author of reader favorite the Kennedy and Carson series (beginning with *The Bluest Eyes in Texas*), 2006 Goldie finalist, *Galveston 1900: Swept Away*, and contributed to multiple anthologies, including *Xena: Their Courage Changed Our World*. She has written thousands of pages of fan fiction that has received numerous awards, including the Royal Academy of Bards Lifetime Achievement Award. She is currently on the Affinity Rainbow Publications social media team, and previously served on the *Xena Subtext Virtual Season* staff, and on the staff of Orlando BardCon, which ran for four years at Walt Disney World.

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JACKIE D

Jackie D was born and raised in the San Francisco, Bay Area of California, where she remains with her wife and son. She earned a dual master’s degree in management and public administration. She is a Navy veteran and served in Operation Iraqi Freedom as a flight deck director. She enjoys playing golf but is resigned to the fact she would equally enjoy any sport where drinking beer is encouraged during game play. Her first book, *Infiltration*, was a finalist for a Lammy, and received a Goldie in 2018.

[Website](#) [Email](#) [Twitter](#)

ANGELA DAWE

Angela Dawe has narrated roughly 500 audiobooks across a wide range of genres including non-fiction, memoir, romance, suspense, YA, sci-fi, fantasy, and LGBTQ fiction, including multiple Earphones Award-winning titles and several Audie-nominated audiobooks. She is known for her facility with accents and her ability to create distinctive character voices, skills she cultivated while working as an improv/sketch comedian in Chicago at Second City and The Annoyance Theatre, among others. Angela currently lives in Michigan and cannot wait until it’s safe to get back onstage for live theatre and music performances.

SANDRA DE HELEN

Sandra de Helen, author of the Shirley Combs/Dr. Mary Watson series and the lesbian thriller *Till Darkness Comes* is a produced playwright, as well as a poet. Launch Point Press publishes her poetry. The first three collections, *Desire Returns for a Visit*, *Lesbian Humor is not an Oxymoron*, and *Poetry for the People* are available now wherever books are sold. More collections are forthcoming. *Desire Returns* is also available in audiobook format, as are her mysteries and her thriller.

[Website](#) [Email](#) [Facebook](#)
[Twitter](#) [Instagram](#)

JANE DILUCCHIO

Jane DiLucchio is the author of two Southern California-based mystery series: three with Diega DelValle and two featuring Kate Matthews. The first Kate Matthews novel, *Going Coastal*, a Goldie Best Mystery finalist, was re-released in March 2021 through Flashpoint Publications. Kate’s second adventure, *Politics Makes Strange Dead Fellows*, will follow in Winter 2021. When not writing, Jane can be found digging in the garden, giving a massage, traveling the world (before COVID), cooking, drinking wine, or reading with a cat in her lap.

[Website](#) [Email](#) [Facebook](#)

MEREDITH DOENCH

Meredith Doench is the author of the Luce Hansen thriller series (Bold Strokes Books). *Crossed* (2015), *Forsaken Trust* (2017) and *Deadeye* (2019). Her work has appeared in literary journals such as *Hayden’s Ferry Review*, *Women’s Studies Quarterly*, and *Gertrude*. Her nonfiction essay “South Carolina, 2012” was nominated for a 2019 Pushcart Prize by *The Tahoma Literary Review*. She served as a fiction editor at *Camera Obscura: Journal of Literature and Photography*. Meredith lives in Ohio where she teaches writing at the University of Dayton.

[Website](#)

TONI DRAPER

Toni Draper’s debut novel, *Wildfire*, a second-chance age-gap romance between a wildland firefighter and a university professor, will be released by Interlude Press on July 27, 2021. Jimena Mendoza and Sydney Foster have ended a relationship, but are still very much in love. As one struggles to let go and move on, the other reaches

"A luminous story of rejuvenating love"

(Kirkus Reviews)

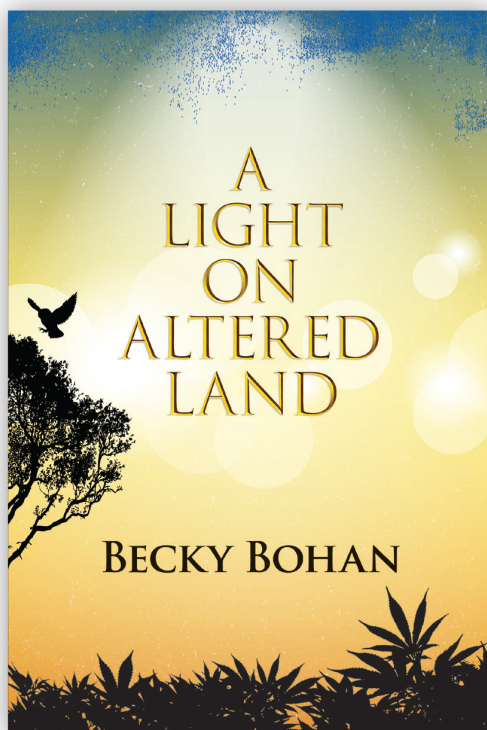
On a cross-country road trip involving a challenging daughter and a run-in with the law, retirees and new lovers Ellie and Kathryn strive to trust the path opening before them

A joyful relating of what happens when you don't let your age, or society's expectations of your age, stand in your way.

— **Curve Magazine**

A wonderful, page-turning read with surprising plot twists and a sexy, build-up romance that speaks to the authentic heat of us slightly-over-disco-age gals. Genuinely sizzling.

— **Bonnie Morris**,
author of *The Disappearing L*
and *Sappho's Bar & Grill*



Along with being a sexy love story, A Light on Altered Land is a fun adventure with twists and turns and familiar lesbian humor. It is also the tenderhearted expression of love that flickers through the novel with gusto and brilliance that is most captivating....

— **Sinister Wisdom**

Bohan's prose is refined and psychologically nuanced.

— **Kirkus Reviews**



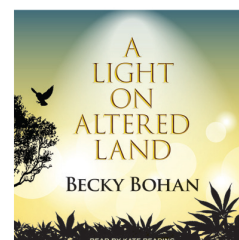
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inward in search of answers and outward to those she hopes can help her recapture what, and whom, she has lost. *Wildfire* offers a psychological examination and a physical exploration of the explosive power, destructive capabilities, and healing abilities of both fire and love.

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LUCI DREAMER

Luci is a native Californian who loves the weather but hates the traffic. She seeks solace in deserts, loves to build stuff and sneaks off into her writing shed every chance she gets. She's perpetually entertained by her son and dogs and is lovingly put up with by her wife.

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SANDY DUGGER

Sandy Dugger lives in a small town nestled between Phoenix and Tucson, Arizona along with her small dog. She spends her days working for the man, but dreaming up new stories to write. She has published two stories with Sapphire Publications, and is currently working on her third novel. She acquired the writing but after her second GCLS convention, and she hopes to publish a lot more stories. Hopefully life will settle down and allow her time to actually sit in front of the computer and write.

[Email](#)

ERIN DUTTON

Erin Dutton resides near Nashville, TN, with her wife. They enjoy traveling with their much doted-on dog. In 2007 she published her first book, *Sequestered Hearts*, and has kept writing since. She's a proud recipient of the 2011 Alice B. Readers Appreciation Medal for her body of work. When not working or writing, she enjoys playing golf, photography, and spending time with friends and family.

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ELANA DYKEWOMON

Elana Dykewomon is a long-time social justice activist, editor and teacher living in Oakland, CA. She's published eight award-winning books foregrounding Lesbian heroism, including her Lambda-winning *Beyond the Pale*, and received the 2018 Lee Lynch Classic Award for her first novel, *Riverfinger Women*. *Sinister Wisdom* has recently published a special issue Elana co-edited with Judith Katz, "To Be a Jewish Dyke in the 21st Century." Currently, she is working on a full-length play about lesbian love, dementia, right to die, caretaking and community, honoring her late spouse, Susan Levinkind. She is grateful for all these years of lesbian inter-connection.

[Website](#) [Facebook](#) [Twitter](#)

CAROLYN ELIZABETH

Carolyn Elizabeth is a Bella Books author known for genre crossing romance and mystery. Her 2019 debut novel and first in the Curtis and Reynolds romantic thriller series, *Gallows Humor*, was a GCLS 2020 finalist in Romantic Blend. She followed it up with the well-received sequel, *Dirt Nap* in January 2020. In October 2020, *The Other Side of Forestlands Lake*, a paranormal mystery/romance was well reviewed in *Publishers Weekly*. The third Curtis and Reynolds novel, *Zero Chill*, was released in April 2021. Carolyn grew up in the U.S. and now lives with her family in London, Ontario.

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MAX ELLENDALE

Max grew up in New York, spending most of her formative years outdoors creating wild ghost hunts with neighborhood kids, setting booby-traps to capture unwitting family members, and building clubhouses on top of ten-foot walls. Max began her career writing scholarly articles and research theses on her first trip through graduate school. It took several years for her to break the habit of the formal

writing that marred her creativity. Max describes her women-loving-women novels as "edgy romance and crime/thrillers about women rising from the ashes of their experiences and thriving in the context of love and relationships."

[Website](#) [Email](#) [Facebook](#)
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ANN ETTER

Ann has been narrating books for just over two years, but she has been an amateur actress for over 40 years. Book narration was longtime goal and she is thrilled to finally have the opportunity to interpret stories created by some very talented authors. Books provide a welcome balance to the numbers that dominate her day job as a CPA, and she reads and listens every moment available. She also occupies her time with needlework, favoring embroidery and knitting. Ann has three adult children, three grandchildren, two cats, and a dog keeping life interesting.

APRIL FORD

April Ford is a queer, bi-national author, editor, and teacher, who shares her time between Canada and the US. Her debut novel, *Carousel* (Inanna Publications), won in the category of LGBTQ Fiction for the 2020 International Book Awards. Her other books are *Death Is a Side-Effect* (Frog Hollow Press) and *The Poor Children*, Winner of the Santa Fe Writers Project Literary Awards Program for Fiction. April is a Pushcart Prize recipient for her short story "Project Fumarase," and has held fully-funded residencies at Ucross Foundation and Virginia Center for the Creative Arts.

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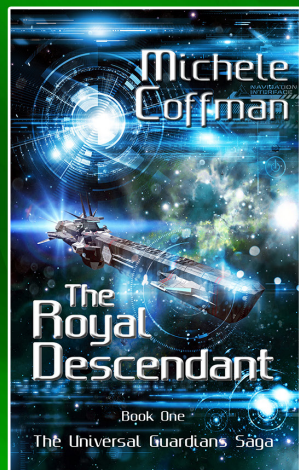
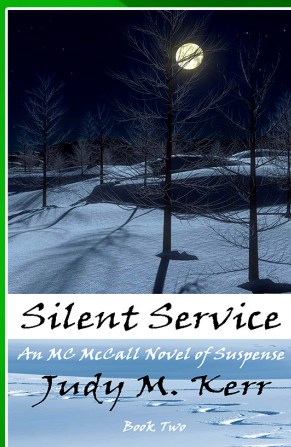
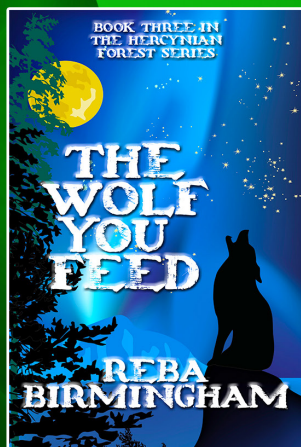
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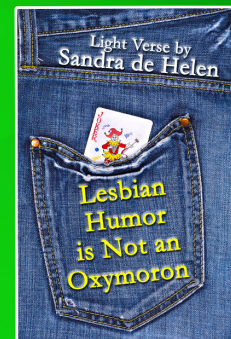
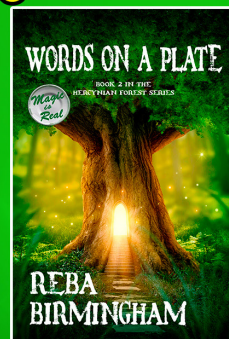
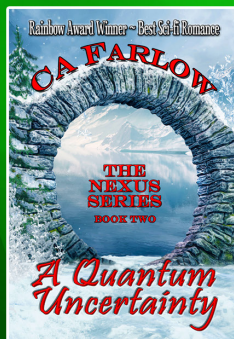
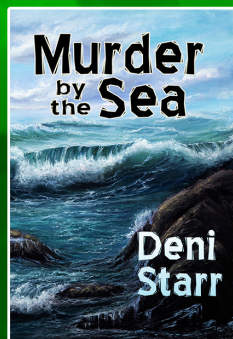
Great
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Upcoming 2021 Releases



Winner of 2020
Goldies for
Debut Novel &
Contemporary Romance

Recent Releases You Can Get Right Now!



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KATHERINE V. FORREST

Katherine V. Forrest's sixteen works of fiction, in translation worldwide, include the lesbian classics *Curious Wine*, *An Emergence of Green*, her nine-volume Kate Delafield mystery series, and *Daughters of a Coral Dawn*, the first novel in her award-winning lesbian-feminist utopian trilogy. Numerous awards and honors include Trailblazer and Classics Awards from GCLS, five Lambda Literary Awards, a Lifetime Achievement from the Publishing Triangle, the Pioneer Award from the Lambda Literary Foundation. Senior editor at the storied Naiad Press for ten years, she is currently editor at large at Bella Books.

[Website](#) [Email](#)

KATE GAVIN

Kate Gavin is a native Midwesterner, currently living in Ohio. When not staring at a computer screen for her day job or her writing gig, she spends her time retrieving items from her thieving dog, playing video games, and bingeing TV shows with her wife. Her latest novel, *Table for Two*, was released by Bella Books in March 2021. She was also featured in Bella's *Save the Date* anthology which came out in June 2021.

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LISE GOLD

Lise Gold is an author of f/f romance. Her romantic attitude, enthusiasm for travel and love for feel good stories form the heartland of her writing. She goes by 'write what you know' and is often found in exotic locations doing research or getting inspired for her next novel. Since the launch of Lily's Fire in 2017, she has written thirteen romantic novels and four erotic novellas under the pen name Madeleine Taylor.

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[Instagram](#)

RACHEL GOLD

Rachel is the author of multiple queer & trans young adult novels, including

the award-winning *Being Emily*—the first young adult novel to tell the story of a trans girl from her perspective. Rachel is a nonbinary lesbian, all around geek and avid gamer, in addition to being a Visiting Assistant Professor of English at Macalester College. Her most recent novel, *Synclair*, is about a girl trying to find her spiritual core while surviving multiple crushes and her first real (sort of) girlfriend.

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ELENA GRAF

Elena Graf has published three historical novels set in Germany during the Weimar Republic and the Nazi era. Her novels *Lies of Omission* and *Acts of Contrition* have won Golden Crown Literary Society awards for best historical fiction as well as Rainbow Awards. *High October* was her first contemporary romance, followed in the Hobbs Series by *This Is My Body*, *Love in the Time of Corona*, and *Thirsty Thursdays*. Graf worked in trade publishing for almost four decades. She lives with her wife in coastal Maine.

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CHARLOTTE GREENE

Charlotte was born in a tiny mountain town and spent most of her childhood and young adulthood in a small city in Northern Colorado. While she is usually what one might generously call "indoorsy," early exposure to the Rocky Mountains led to a lifelong love of nature, hiking, and camping. After a lengthy education in Denver, New Orleans, Washington D.C., and New York, she earned a doctorate in literature and now teaches at the college level. Charlotte lives with her wife and their son in a small city in Wisconsin.

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SHEREE L. GREER

Sheree L. Greer is a text-based artist living in Tampa, Florida. In 2014, she

founded Kitchen Table Literary Arts to showcase and support the work of Black women writers and is the author of two novels, *Let the Lover Be* and *A Return to Arms*. Her work has been published in First Bloom Anthology, LezTalk Anthology, VerySmartBrothas, Autostraddle, and the Windy City Queer Anthology. Sheree is a VONA/VOICES alum, Astraea Lesbian Foundation grantee, Yaddo fellow, and Ragdale Fellow. Her essay, "Bars" published in Fourth Genre Magazine, was nominated for a Pushcart Prize and notably named in Best American Essays 2019.

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MARY GRIGGS

By day, Mary Griggs is a non-profit management consultant and a political activist. She spends her nights writing. Whenever she can, she takes advantage of all the amenities New Orleans has to offer, especially the food! She is the author of four lesbian romance and speculative fiction novels, published by Bella Books. Her food blog can be found at <http://mouthbrothels.com/>

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MB GUEL

MB is the published author of *Queerleaders: A Love Story* which is a finalist in two categories (YA Novel and Debut Novel) for GCLS 2020. They are currently anticipating their upcoming release *Internet Famous* with Bella Books where they continue to explore what it is to be LGBT+, Latinx and gender non-conforming.

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2021 PARTICIPANT BIOGRAPHIES

VERONICA GUTIÉRREZ

Veronica Gutiérrez is the author of Bella Books' upcoming *As You Look*, a mystery novel. She is a former community organizer, civil rights attorney, and corporate executive. She draws from years of experience in those worlds for her fiction. Veronica was born and raised in Boyle Heights, the Los Angeles neighborhood that her protagonist, Yolanda Avila, calls home. Veronica and her wife Laura split their time between Los Angeles and San Francisco. Both are home bar enthusiasts and avid travelers. They host cocktail-lesson-themed fundraisers—called *Mixology on a Mission*—to help Los Angeles non-profits grow their donor base. Veronica published *My Little Black Cocktail Book*, a journal to organize her research and help others do the same.

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ANNE HAGAN

Anne Hagan is the author of more than twenty works of fiction in the mystery, romance and thriller genres. She writes of family, friends, love, murder, and mayhem in no particular order and often all in the same story. She's a half owner of the weekly discount eBook newsletter, *MyLesfic*, the Director of Marketing for the GCLS, a wife, parent, foster parent, and an Army veteran. She draws from all of those experiences when she writes because truth is often stranger than fiction.

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KATE HAZEL HALL

Kate Hazel Hall has published short stories, prose poems and creative non-fiction for adults, but Sapphic YA is where her heart is—especially fantasy, magical realism, and speculative YA fiction. Kate has a PhD in Literary Studies from Deakin University, where she teaches graduate research skills, genre studies and ecological literature. She lives with her daughters on unceded lands belonging to the

Wadawurrung peoples of the Kulin Nations, in the south-west of Australia. *From Darkness* (Duet Books, November 2020) is her first novel.

ELLEN HART

Often called the LGBT's "answer to Agatha Christie," Ellen Hart is the author of thirty-five crime novels in two different series. Her most recent mystery, *In A Midnight Wood*, was published in September 2020. She is a winner of multiple literary awards, including a six-time winner of the Lambda Literary Award for Best Lesbian Mystery. In 2010, Ellen received the GCLS Trailblazer Award for lifetime achievement in the field of lesbian literature. In 2017, she became the first openly LGBT author to be named a Grand Master by Mystery Writers of America, an award that represents the pinnacle of achievement in mystery writing. She is a frequent presenter at events nationwide and has taught creative writing for sixteen years through the Loft Literary Center in Minneapolis, the largest independent writing community in the nation. Ellen lives in Minnesota with her partner of 42 years.

CHERYL A. HEAD

Cheryl Head writes the award-winning, *Charlie Mack Motown Mysteries* whose female PI protagonist is queer and black. The series is included in the Detroit Public Library's African-American Books List. Head is a member of the national board of Bouchercon. She is a two-time Lammy finalist. In 2019, she was named to the Hall of Fame of the Saints and Sinners Literary Festival. Head is a former GCLS Board member.

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C. A. HOFFMAN

C. A. Hoffman is a writer and publisher whose works include *No Granbabbies*, winner of a California Writer's Roundtable Award, published in *Affilia, Journal of Women and Social Work* (1993); entries in *Birx's Ency-*

clopedia of Anthropology (2005) and *Encyclopedia of Time* (2009); chapters in *Baskerville's Music Business Handbook & Career Guide* (2004) and *Smedley & Allen's Getting Your Book Published* (1993); and *A Newcomer's Guide to Ventura* (2007) and *Douglas Shively: An Artist's Life* (2017). Recently retired from a long career in academic publishing, she makes her home on the coast of Southern California, where she reads and writes fiction.

[Email](#)

ELLEN HOIL

Ellen Hoil lives in the wine country of Long Island, between The Sound and The Peconic Bay. "I can't imagine living anywhere that isn't near water and open space." When she isn't writing fiction, she does write for her other career as an in-house counsel attorney. During her down time Ellen enjoys her hobbies of photography and getting involved in local politics. She is an ardent Sci-Fi geek and attends various conventions pre-COVID. "My philosophy on life is that failure is never the end, but a temporary stopping point onto a new path."

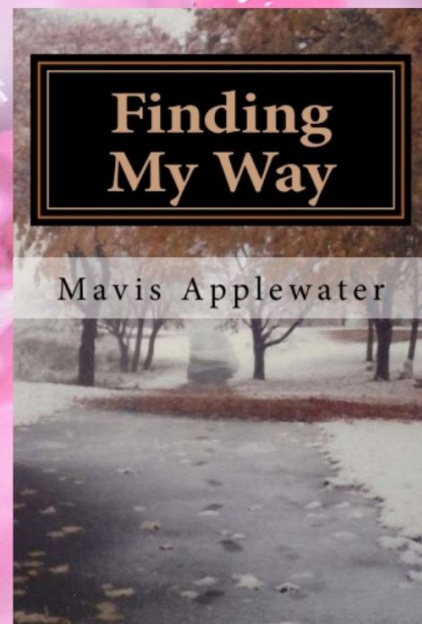
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ROBIN HOPKINS

Robin Hopkins is an award-winning actor, writer, and podcast host. She's the co-author of the book "If These Ovaries Could Talk: The Things We've Learned About Making an LGBTQ Family" and she has written for the New York Times and had articles featured in the Parents and Queer Voices sections of HuffPost. Her television writing credits include VH1, MTV, VH1 Classic, and iHeartRadio. She's also a former stand-up comic who's written and performed full-length plays, sketch comedy and solo shows to sold-out audiences in New York City and abroad. In a review, *AfterEllen* called her "a gifted writer and actress."

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ELLE E. IRE

Elle Ire writes science fiction featuring kick-ass women who fall in love with each other. Her first novel, *Vicious Circle*, released from Torquere Press in November, 2015, and was rereleased in January, 2020, by DSP Publications. The novels in her *Storm Fronts* series, *Threadbare*, *Patchwork*, and *Woven*, were released in 2019 and 2020 by DSP Publications with mass market editions arriving on shelves in physical bookstores in 2021. Her work is represented by Naomi Davis at the Bookends Literary Agency.

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KJ

Best-selling author KJ lives in Melbourne, Australia with her wife, their son, three cats and a dog. She started writing interesting observations of life, literary articles, poetry, creative non-fiction, and essays, and eventually they were all sort of smooshed together in a giant author-y blender and out popped a book. Then another. The blender is currently in use for KJ's next novel. Her novel, *Coming Home*, was a Goldie finalist. Her other best-selling novels include *Learning To Swim*, *Kick Back*, *Art of Magic*, *An Unexpected Gift: Christmas In Australia: Five Short Stories*, and *Change Of Plans*.

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BRITNEY JACKSON

Britney Jackson is a lesbian author of fantasy and paranormal fiction. She fell in love with reading and writing at an early age and hasn't been able to stop since. She has a passion for creating the kind of heroes she needed when she was younger: heroes with mental illnesses, insecurities, and flaws. Her books are centered around strong, queer women who overcome insurmountable odds in order to protect the ones they love. She has a Bachelor of Science in Fine Arts and Religion and has completed graduate studies in English. She resides in Sheffield, Alabama, with her two children.

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KAT JACKSON

Kat is a high school English teacher living in Pennsylvania who has been buried in and under books for thirty-some years. A lifelong learner, Kat currently has two masters degrees: one in English Literature, and another in Clinical & Counseling Psychology, plus an unofficial degree in true crime podcasts. She puts far too much stock into words and has been writing since she was twelve years old. Kat is an avid collector of books, typewriters, feelings, and beat-up running shoes that carry miles of self-preservation. Kat is published with Bella Books; her third book will be out in early 2022.

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FAY JACOBS

Fay Jacobs has authored 5 collections of humorous/activist essays with Bywater Books, and was named a 2019 Champion of Pride by *The Advocate* Magazine. She has won an International Rainbow Award, and American Library Association, IPPY (Independent Publishers), and Goldie awards among others. She's written for *The Washington Post*, *Baltimore Sun*, *The Advocate*, *Philadelphia Gay News*, *Washington Blade*, *curve magazine* and more. She's been performing her solo sit-down comedy show *Aging Gracelessly: 50 Shades of Fay* all over the country for the past six years. Her motto is "nothing is so bad if it's worth the story you can tell."

[Website](#) [Email](#)

JAE

Jae is the author of twenty-two award-winning romances between women. She lives in the sunniest city in Germany, near the French and Swiss borders. The writing bug bit her at the age of eleven. She used to work as a psychologist but gave up her day job in 2013 to become a full-time writer and a part-time editor. As far as she's concerned, it's the best job in the world. When she's not writing, she is an avid reader, indulges her ice cream

and stationery addictions, and watches way too many crime shows.

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REGINA JAMISON

Regina Jamison's poetry has appeared in several literary journals including: *Sinister Wisdom: Black Lesbian Revolution*, *Five Two One Magazine*, *Magma Literary Journal: Deaf Issue*, *The Americas Poetry Festival of New York Anthology 2016*, and the *Promethean Literary Journal*. Online, her poetry has appeared in *Gnashing Teeth Journal*, *Silver Birch Press*, *The Lake Literary Journal*, and *Mom Egg Review*. Her short stories have appeared in *Girls Who Bite: Vampire Lesbian Anthology*, and *Zane's Purple Panties Anthology*. She is a Guest Editor for *Gnashing Teeth Journal's* upcoming anthology, *SHE: Seen. Heard. Engaged*. Her first novel, *Choosing Grace*, was published by Bella Books.

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HEATHER ROSE JONES

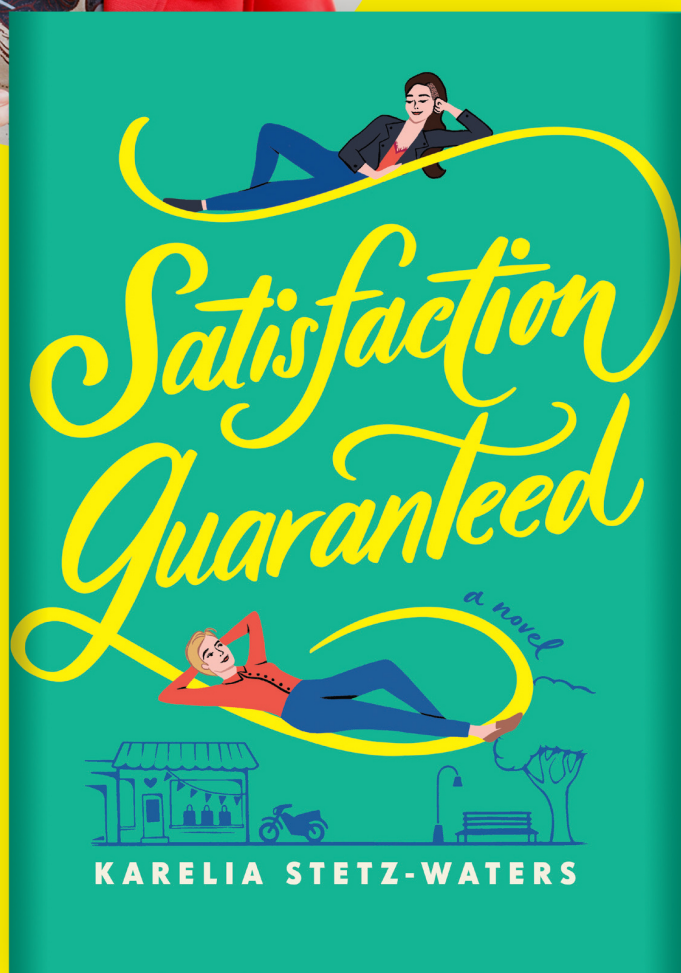
Heather Rose Jones writes historical fiction and historic fantasy, including the *Alpennia* series, a Regency-era Ruritanian romantic adventure. The third book, *Mother of Souls*, won the Gaylactic Spectrum award for science fiction and fantasy. She has sold short fiction to *Podcastle*, *Sword and Sorceress*, and *Lace and Blade*, among others. Heather runs the Lesbian Historic Motif Project, a research blog with a podcast promoting the field of sapphic historical fiction with publication news, author interviews, essays, and audio fiction.

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EA KAFKALAS

Novelist/playwright, EA Kafkalas is the author of the novels *Donning the Beard*, *The Second Heart*, *Soul Mistakes*, *Out of Grief*, and *Frankie & Petra*, and the plays *Lopsided*, and *Pandora's Golden Box*. A true Renaissance woman, EA has worked in the theatre as an actor, director, and producer. She is also a mixed media artist, and a vegan chef. She resides on a farm in upstate NY with her two best friends, her vast library of books, movies, and art supplies. They are kept warm and amused by the family dogs Boo and Allie, and cat Griffin.

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KARIN KALLMAKER

Karin Kallmaker has always written about women who love women and isn't likely to change. Her addiction to TimTams, coffee, and Taytos won't likely change either. Her dozens of novels include *Because I Said So*, *Painted Moon*, and *Captain of Industry*. She has won multiple Goldie and Lambda Literary Awards over her thirty-year career, and is a GCLS Trailblazer. Her new novel is *Simply the Best*. If you can put a price tag on perfection will anything ever measure up?

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LOUISA KELLEY

Louisa Kelley writes fantastical stories of unusual romance, intrigue and magical mayhem, often with modern day characters based in Portland. *Guin The Emerald*, Book Two of The Shift Series, will be published on 7/26/21. Louisa resides in Portland where, in a strangely perfect combination of rainy winters and urban skyline, her writing inspiration abounds. She's also slightly obsessed with dragons.

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[Instagram](#)

JAIMIE KELTON

Jaimie Kelton is an award-winning actor, voiceover artist, podcast host and author. Jaimie co-hosts the popular People's Choice award-winning podcast *If These Ovaries Could Talk*, where she chats with guests about making babies when making babies doesn't come naturally. She is co-author of the book based on her podcast, *If These Ovaries Could Talk, The Thing's We've Learned About Making an LGBTQ Family*. She is a Helen Hayes and SOVAS Award winner whose voice can be heard as Bo Peep in Syfy Network's, *Happy!*, as well as on many hit cartoons. She lives with her wife and children in Manhattan.

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JUDY KERR

Judy M. Kerr is a lifelong Minnesotan who's always enjoyed reading and now writing mysteries. A few of her short stories have been published in various anthologies including, "Ruby Red Heist" in the *Dark Side of the Loon: Where History Meets Mystery* anthology published in 2018 by Twin Cities Chapter of Sisters in Crime. *Black Friday*, the first novel in Judy's series featuring a postal inspector protagonist was published by Launch Point Press in July 2019. Look for the second book in the series, *Silent Service*, to be published later in 2021.

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SCARLETT KNIGHT

Scarlett Knight is a Texas native who started out writing erotic short stories for websites and anthologies. Since then, she has spread her storytelling wings and expanded her offerings to full-length, character-driven romance. After experimenting with a number of sub-genres, she wrote and published the lesbian romance novel *Roads and Revelations* (Painted Hearts Publishing). During the process of writing *Roads*, she fell in love with writing WLW fiction and has been writing it

ever since. *The Neon Fishnets Book 2: Breaking the Chains* (Painted Hearts Publishing), the second installment of her new FF rock band romance trilogy, is now available!

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GEORGIA KOLIAS

Georgia Kolas is the author of *The Feasting Virgin* from Bywater Books – a delectable novel full of heart, humor, magical realism, and a veritable feast of recipes. She holds an MFA/MA in Creative Writing and has written for *The Huffington Post*, *The Advocate*, *The Manifest-Station*, *Role Reboot*, and for various anthologies. She is a graduate of the GCLS Writing Academy for which she received the Sandra Moran Scholarship. She has worked in publishing, literary management, bookselling and taught creative writing. Georgia lives in Oakland, California with her three beautiful children.

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JANE KOLVEN

Jane Kolven is an author of contemporary, fun romances. She is proud to create stories that show a variety of LGBTQ people finding happiness—because everyone deserves love. Her first book, *The Holiday Detour*, tells the story of a Jewish lesbian and nonbinary person who fall in love. *The Queen Has a Cold*, which was published in April, is about an intersex royal. After moving too many times to count, Jane has settled for now in the metro Detroit area.

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RACHEL LACEY

Rachel Lacey is an award-winning contemporary romance author and semi-reformed travel junkie. She's been climbed by a monkey on a mountain in Japan, gone scuba diving on the Great Barrier Reef, and camped out overnight in New York City for a chance to be an extra in a movie. These days, the majority of her adventures take place on the pages of the books she writes. She lives in warm and sunny North Carolina with her family and a variety of rescue pets.

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LORI L. LAKE

Lori L. Lake is the author of a bunch of award-winning novels and short story collections. She's edited four anthologies, including *Lesbians on the Loose* with Jessie Chandler, which won a Goldie. Her short work is featured in a dozen anthologies including *Best Lesbian Romance*, *Now We Heal*, and *Women of the Mean Streets*. Lori's known for sharing writing craft resources and is especially fond of teaching about crime fiction. She's also the publisher at Launch Point Press. She lives on the edge of Portland, Oregon, at the Fortress of Solitude/Sanctuary of Solace.

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ANNE LAUGHLIN

Anne Laughlin is the award-winning author of seven novels for Bold Strokes Books. Her most recent novel, *Money Creek*, was published in 2020. Four of her novels have won Goldie Awards from the GCLS. Three novels have been short-listed for a Lammy Award from the Lambda Literary Society. Anne has been twice selected for Lambda's Writers Retreat program. Minotaur Books named her a queer crime fiction writer of note in 2018. Anne has attended writing residencies at Ragdale, Vermont Studio Center, and others. Her short stories have appeared in several anthologies. She lives in Chicago with her wife, Linda.

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RJ LAYER

RJ Layer resides in the heart of the Midwest with her wife and their two feline bosses. She is a certified romance nut and thrilled to be writing lesfic for Bella Books. When not traveling to new places, RJ can be found relaxing in the rolling hills on the water, dreaming up engaging characters and moving stories. She's quite passionate about photography and enjoys reading every free minute she can find.

[Email](#)

SAM LEDEL

Sam Ledel is an author with Bold Strokes Books. Her debut novel, *Rocks and Stars*, was a 2019 Goldie Finalist. Her latest release, *The Princess and the Odium*, is the final installment of the Odium Trilogy – a fantasy adventure series– featuring a slow-burn romance between its heroines. Ledel enjoys being able to write in her free time and is currently working on her next novel.

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D. JACKSON LEIGH

D. Jackson Leigh is a career journalist, whose real passion is writing lesbian romances that range from sweet to extra hot, are and laced with her Southern humor and affection for horses. Jackson's stories look beyond stereotypes as her characters work through issues such as caring for elderly relatives, social issues, military ethics, and PTSD. She has written 14 novels and one anthology of short stories, all published by Bold Strokes Books. She's won four GCLS awards in paranormal, romance and fantasy categories, and was a finalist for three additional GCLS awards and the 2014 Lambda Literary Society Awards.

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JEANNIE LEVIG

Jeannie Levig is an award-winning author of lesbian fiction and a proud

and happy member of the Bold Strokes Books family. Her debut novel, *Threads of the Heart*, her romantic intrigue, *Into Thin Air*, and *A Wish Upon a Star*, a contemporary romance won Goldie Awards. She's also won Rainbow Awards for several of her books. As a writer, she strikes a good balance between challenging storylines and compelling characters, the combination of which ensures her books stay with the reader long after they're done.

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ELLEN LEVY

Ellen Levy is obsessed; writing has taken over her life. She spends part of everyday living in 1910's with her characters, Deborah and Miriam, young Jewish women in love. They are products of the turn-of-the-century values, in a relationship unacceptable in post-Victorian America. Passion pulls them together, yet the world is not ready for them. Ellen summers in Boston with her wife and two cats, and winters in Florida with 500 older women who celebrate the hard-earned freedom to be themselves.

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TONI LOGAN

Toni Logan is the author of the paranormal novel *Share the Moon* and the upcoming contemporary romance novels *The Marriage Masquerade* (August) and *Gia's Gems* (November). She is a lover of hiking, beaches, and horseback riding. Although she grew up in Missouri, she has lived the majority of her life in the Desert Southwest. She shares her home with a mischievous gang of four rescue cats.

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KC LUCK

Bestselling author KC Luck writes women loving women action-adventure, contemporary romance, and fiction. Writing is her passion, and nothing energizes her more than cre-

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ating new characters facing trials and tribulations in a complex plot. Whether it is apocalypse, contemporary, or a little naughty, with every story, KC tries to add her own unique twist. She has written twelve books (which include "The Darkness Trilogy" and "The Lesbian Billionaires Club" series) and multiple short stories across many genres. KC is active in the LGBTQ+ community and is a member of the GCLS Board of Directors.

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CATHERINE LUNDOFF

Catherine Lundoff is an award-winning writer, editor and publisher from Minneapolis. Her books include *Blood Moon* and *Silver Moon, Unfinished Business: Tales of the Dark Fantastic*, *Out of This World: Queer Speculative Fiction Stories*, *Crave* and *Night's Kiss*. She is the editor of the anthologies *Scourge of the Seas of Time (and Space)* and *Haunted Hearths and Sapphic Shades: Lesbian Ghost Stories* and co-editor of *Hellebore and Rue: Tales of Queer Women and Magic*. She also writes erotic romance as Emily L. Byrne. She is the publisher at Queen of Swords Press and teaches writing workshops at the Rambo Academy.

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LEE LYNCH

Lee Lynch was named GCLS Trailblazer in 2009 and her gratitude to the women of GCLS is boundless. Her new novel, *Accidental Desperados*, the second volume of her lesbian family saga, *Rainbow Gap*, is now available. Her novel *The Swashbuckler* received the inaugural GCLS Lee Lynch Classic Award. She has also been recognized for her books *Rainbow Gap*, *Beggar of Love*, *The Raid*, *An American Queer*, and, with co-curator Renee Bess, *Our Happy Hours*, *LGBT Voices from the Gay Bars*. She lives in the Pacific Northwest with her cherished wife, Lainie Lynch, King the Cat and Betty the Dog.

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KG MACGREGOR

KG MacGregor is the author of twenty-seven books, including the romance saga, *The Shaken Series*. A proud product of the *Xena: Warrior Princess* fanfiction community, she has been honored with nine Golden Crown Awards, a Lambda Literary Award, the Alice B. Medal for career achievement, and the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Royal Academy of Bards. She served as president of Lambda Literary, the world's premier organization for LGBTQ literature. A native of the Blue Ridge Mountains, she now makes her home in Nashville TN with partner Jenny and a pair of warrior cats.

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NYSSA MACKINNON

Living in the Wild Roses of the former Dominion of Canada, Nyssa spends her time getting lost in worlds as she creates many adventures for people around the world. She is a unionized night stocker who realizes that this is a better audio pun. When not biking or swimming she should be reading and writing more. She has been published once, in *The Lesbian Campfire Stories Anthology* (2020) and is hoping to write about lesbian steampunk space Pirates, supernatural noir, or supernatural nazi fighting time travellers.

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RAE D. MAGDON

Rae D. Magdon writes queer speculative fiction. She believes everyone deserves to be heroes, especially lesbians, bisexuals, trans women, non-binary folks, and women of color. Her recent cyberpunk novel, *Lucky 7*, won a 2019 Goldie for Science Fiction/Fantasy, as well as the 2019 Rainbow Award. Her profile on AO3 (Archive Of Our Own) contains over 350+ unique works of free fanfiction.

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CATHERINE MAIORISI

Catherine Maiorisi is the author of the NYPD Detective Chiara Corelli mystery series featuring Corelli and her reluctant partner, Detective P.J. Parker. The first two books in the series, *A Matter of Blood* and *The Blood Runs Cold* were Lambda Literary Award finalists. The third, *A Message in Blood*, was published in January 2021. Catherine has also published four romances: *Matters of the Heart*, *No One But You*, *Ready for Love* and *Taking a Chance on Love*.

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NANCY MANAHAN

Nancy Manahan co-edited the ground-breaking international best-seller, *Lesbian Nuns: Breaking Silence*. Her second book was *On My Honor: Lesbians Reflect on Their Scouting Experience*, now available as an eBook. With her wife, author Becky Bohan, she co-authored the award-winning *Living Consciously, Dying Gracefully: A Journey with Cancer and Beyond*. Nancy is a retired Minnesota college English teacher living at Carefree, a women's community in N Ft Myers, Florida.

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DIANE MARINA

Diane Marina is the bestselling author of *It's Only Love*, *After the Glitter Fades* and *How Still My Love*, of which Curve Magazine said "(there's) just the right amount of heat in the sex scenes to keep it interesting for all". She lives with her wife and two dogs (a Chihuahua appropriately named Nugget, and Twyla, an American Rat Terrier named in honor of her moms' favorite show) in the Wash-



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ington, DC metro area. She's an avid runner, traveler, and craft gin aficionado. When not writing, she spends her waking hours visiting nearby micro-breweries and distilleries, hanging out with her wife and dogs, and tearing into good books. When she's not traveling, she's dreaming of all of the places she'd like to visit.

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JB MARSDEN

JB "Joey" Marsden wrote her first short story at age ten, but, needing to make a living, spent most of her life writing academic tomes that no one enjoyed reading. Now having published four novels, she has realized her childhood dream. Joey lives on her family farm in Illinois with her wife. Aside from writing, she enjoys reading, outdoor activities, and classic movies. Even though she can be found most often basking in the quiet of rural living, she travels for work and fun both in the U.S. and abroad.

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[Instagram](#)

MARIANNE K. MARTIN

Marianne K. Martin is one of the best-selling lesbian romance writers of the genre, and her books have gained a wide international readership. She is the author of eleven novels, including the Lambda Literary finalists *Tangled Roots*, *Under the Witness Tree*, *Mirrors*, and *For Now, For Always*. She is the recipient of numerous awards that include Goldie and IPPY awards, and the Alice B Medal for her lifetime work. In 2012, she was honored with the Trailblazer Award from the Golden Crown Literary Society, and in 2013 she was inducted into the Saints & Sinners Hall of Fame. Marianne is a founding partner of Bywater Books. And her most recent accomplishment is as co-director of the film *In Her Words: 20th Century Lesbian Fiction*, the winner of The Publishing Triangle's 2020 Leadership Award. She is also a member of the GCLS Sandra Moran Writing Academy Scholarship board.

[Email](#)

PAULA MARTINAC

Paula Martinac is the author of six novels, including most recently *Testimony*; *Clio Rising*, Gold Medalist, Northeast Region, 2020 Independent Publisher Book Awards; and *The Ada Decades*, a finalist for both the 2018 Ferro-Grumley Award in LGBTQ Fiction and the Goldie Awards in historical fiction. *Out of Time*, her debut novel, won a Lambda Literary Award. Her seventh novel, *Dear Miss Cushman*, is forthcoming from Bywater Books. She has received fellowships from North Carolina Arts Council and the Arts and Science Council of Charlotte-Mecklenburg and teaches in the creative writing program at the University of North Carolina, Charlotte.

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McGEE MATHEWS

An Army brat from Michigan, McGee Mathews uses her obsession with genealogy to create memorable romance characters. She released the historical *Keeping Secrets* with Sapphire Books and *Slaying Dragons* with Stone Soup Community Press. A hybrid author, *Delivering Generations*, the latest in the Ladies of Diamond Lake series, is self-published. She was astounded to discover the 80's setting is considered historical. McGee and her wife of 28 years raised three children on a farm in South Carolina. She retired from chasing goats, but keeps beehives. Within months, her wife will retire and they will become RV nomads.

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MAGGIE MCINTYRE

Hi, I am quite new to publishing les-fic but have written and launched five novels over the last year, all focused on women in love with women. Three are set in the USA and three in Britain. I live in England but have studied in California and have travelled across much of America. In my day job I worked in international development so global issues for women some-

times impact my stories. I hope they are romantic, realistic and believable, set in today's world. I have a weakness for ice-queens, and a firm belief in the power of a happy ending.

[Website](#) [Email](#) [Facebook](#)

ERIN MCKENZIE

Erin McKenzie has been a lover of words since she first learned her ABCs, sparking a lifelong passion for reading, writing, and of course, word games! She is a professional high school counselor, partner to her wife of nearly twenty years, Mommy to their three children, chief dishwasher and laundry folder, soccer mom and homework checker. Her happy places are the beach or deep within the pages of a good book...preferably both at once. She and her family live in the Finger Lakes region of New York State and share their home with several beloved fur babies.

[Email](#)

ANN MCMAN

Ann McMan is the author of twelve novels and two collections of short stories. She is a two-time Lambda Literary Award winner, a Foreword INDIES winner, a nine-time winner of Golden Crown Literary Society Awards, a four-time IPPY medalist, and a recipient of the Alice B. Medal for her outstanding body of work. She resides in Winston-Salem, NC with her wife, Salem West, two precocious dogs, and an exhaustive supply of vacuum cleaner bags.

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GAR McVEY-RUSSELL

Gar's first novel, *Sin Against the Race* (gamr books, 2017) was listed on The Advocate's Best Books We Read in 2018: LGBTQ Novels. His short story, *Tom of Boalt Hall*, was a finalist in the Saints and Sinners LGBTQ Festival Fiction Open and appears in their 2020 anthology. His fiction has also appeared in *Sojourner: Black Gay Voices in the Age of AIDS* (1993) and *Harrington Gay Men's Fiction Quarterly* (vol. 7, Num. 3, 2005). He publishes a blog, *the gar spot*. Gar is married and lives in Oakland, California, where he listens to a lot of jazz.

SUSAN X MEAGHER

Susan X Meagher is the clever nom de plume of Susan X Meagher. Susan has published 47 novels: some fantastic, some merely excellent. She enjoys writing and mentoring other writers in roughly equal proportions.

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PENNY MICKELBURY

Penny Mickelbury is the author of 15 novels of mystery and historical fiction, a collection of short stories, and a frequent contributor of stories to several anthologies and collections. She is a two-time Lammy finalist, a two-time Goldie finalist, the 2020 winner of the ALICE B MEDAL for her body of work in the field of lesbian literature, and she is one of the writers featured in the film, *In Her Words: Lesbian Literature in the 20th Century*. She is a recipient of the Audre Lorde Estate Grant, and of a Hedgebrook residency.

[Website](#) [Email](#)

MARTHA MILLER

Martha Miller is a Midwestern, award-winning author who writes a verity of genre from plays to lesbian novels. She's had 8 books published. Her latest book is a YA romance/suspense titled *Me Inside*. The book that women walk up to her in the bathroom, to tell her how much they liked it is *Retirement Plan*.

[Email](#)

STACY LYNN MILLER

Stacy Lynn Miller took up writing after retiring from the Air Force. Her twenty years of toting a gun and police badge, tinkering with computers, and sleuthing for clues as an investigator form the foundation of her Manhattan Sloane romantic thriller series. Visually impaired, she is a proud stroke survivor, mother of two, tech nerd, chocolate lover, and terrible golfer with a hole-in-one. When you can't find her writing, she'll be golfing or drinking wine (sometimes both) with friends and family in Northern California.

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JAZZY MITCHELL

Jazzy Mitchell loves to tell stories, one word at a time. Her writing has evolved through poetry, short stories, fanfiction under the name Jazwriter, and novels. Each project has taught her how to integrate what she's observed. She's warned loved ones anything they say or do may show up in her next novel. Jazzy's the author of four contemporary lesbian novels published through Desert Palm Press: *Lost Treasures—which received an Honorable Mention for the 2016 Rainbow Awards*, *Musings of a Madwoman*, *You Matter*, and her newest novel, *Undertow*.

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K.A. MOLL

K.A. Moll / Cade Brogan is a best-selling author of lesbian fiction. She writes stories about lesbians, burdened by past trauma, who find healing in the love of a soul mate. K.A. holds a bachelor's degree in psychology and a master's degree in social work from the University of Illinois. She also holds a master's degree in counseling from Eastern Illinois University. Her professional background is in mental health and child welfare. She enjoys golf, bridge, and of course, reading and writing lesbian fiction. Writing as K.A. Moll, she is the author of eight novels—*Soul Mates*,

Coming to Terms, *Haunting Love*, *Change of Heart*, *For A Moment's Indiscretion*, *Blue Ice Landing*, *Whispers of the Heart*, and *Twice Upon A Train*. Writing as Cade Brogan, she is the author of two novels—*Close Enough to Touch* and *Deadly Deception*. All of her books are available in print, digital, and audio formats at www.kamoll.com. She resides in central Illinois with her Maltipoo and wife of thirty-five years.

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JAMEY MOODY

Small town Texas girl that grew up believing she could do anything. Her mother loved to read and romance novels were a favorite that she passed on to her daughter. When she found lesfic novels her world changed. She not only fell in love with the genre but wanted to write her own stories. You can find her books on Amazon and her website.

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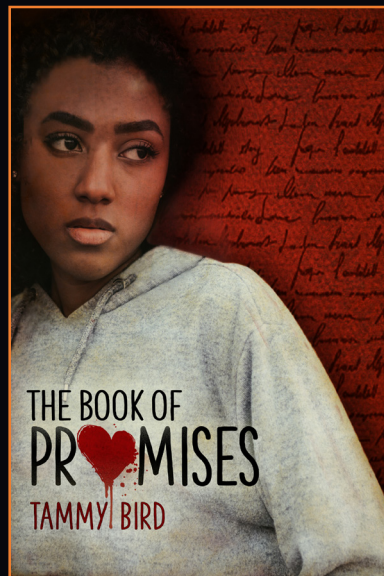
P. J. MORGAN

A lifelong storyteller, book nerd, actor, and secret author, P. J. Morgan has finally reached the pinnacle of human form as a professional audiobook narrator! She is an empathic performer with a broad skillset who believes in the power of the written and spoken word to transform, educate, elevate, and escape. When not in the booth, she is outside playing with her equine friends, hiking with her demonspawn chihuahua, or crafting hit-or-miss vegan meals. P. J. is especially interested in stories featuring diverse characters, unusual protagonists, and sympathetic villains.

ANNETTE MORI

Annette is an award-winning author, published by Affinity Rainbow Publications and Stone Soup Community Press. Annette lives in the beautiful Pacific Northwest with her wife and their five furry kids. With twenty-one published novels and four awards, in-

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cluding a Goldie and three Lesfic Bard Awards, she finally feels like a real author. If someone picks up her book and it touches them, she believes she has achieved her goal of reaching each reader. Drop her a line, she loves to hear from readers.

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BONNIE J. MORRIS

Bonnie J. Morris is the author of 19 books, including *The Feminist Revolution* (which made Oprah's list), *The Disappearing L*, and the Headmistress Press poetry volume *Earlier Households*. Her Bywater Books time-travel novel *Sappho's Bar and Grill* won the Devil's Kitchen Literary Festival award and was a finalist for the Foreword Award; the dynamic sequel is *Sappho's Overhead Projector*. A women's history professor at UC-Berkeley with a longtime role documenting the women's music movement, Dr. Bon is a scholarly adviser to the National Women's History Museum and the archivist for Olivia Records. Expect *What's The Score?* in 2022 (women's sports!)

[Website](#)

JAYCIE MORRISON

Jaycie Morrison traded the heat of her lifetime big city home of Dallas, Texas, for the cool beauty of the mountains in a small Colorado town, and considers it a wise move. After finishing *Guarding Hearts*, the third historical romance in her Love and Courage series, Jaycie penned her first contemporary romance, *The Found Jar*. When not writing, Jaycie may be observing the local wildlife, experimenting with gluten free cooking, pretending to be a rock star or being trained by her new puppy.

[Website](#) [Email](#) [Facebook](#)

BRENDA MURPHY

Brenda Murphy writes romance and erotica and is published with Ninestar Press. Her novel, *Double Six* won the 2020 Goldie Award for Erotica. She

loves sideshows and tattoos and yes, those are her monkeys. When she is not loitering on her front porch, she wrangles two kids, one dog, and an unrepentant parrot. Her most recent work *Love, Blood, and Sanctuary*, an anthology with Fiona Zedde and Megan Hart was released by Ninestar Press in June of 2021.

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CJ MURPHY

CJ Murphy is an author with Desert Palm Press. Her debut novel, *'frame by frame,'* received a 2017 Goldie. Her current focus is on the law enforcement-based Five Point Series, about a female sheriff in a rural West Virginia county. CJ's former line of work as a firefighter taught her that truth is often stranger than fiction. From these truths, she draws inspiration for the dramatic scenes Sheriff Chance Fitzsimmons finds herself in. The fifth book in the series, *House of Refuge*, revisits characters from book three, *Redemption's Road*.

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E. J. NOYES

E. J. Noyes (she/her) is a best-selling, award-winning author of eight WLW novels with Bella Books. An Australian transplanted to New Zealand—which may be one of the awesomest things to ever happen to her—she lives with her wife, a needy cat and lots of plants. When not indulging in her love of reading and writing, E. J. argues with her hair, thinks about skiing, and pretends to be good at things.

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ROBYN NYX

Robyn Nyx lives in England but enjoys traveling all over the world in search of inspiration. Robyn is an avid shutterbug and lover of all things fast and physical. Her writing often reflects both of those passions. She lives with her wifey soul mate and fellow scribe,

Brey Willows. They run the community interest company, Global Wordsmith, helping aspiring authors to achieve their dreams and working with marginalized groups to get their stories heard. Robyn loves to create complex characters to weave into stories that remind us of the darker side of human nature in the hope that we might cultivate the light.

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OCEAN

Ocean writes about ordinary women who find themselves in extraordinary situations. She's published novels in a variety of lesfic genres including romance and urban fantasy, but her passion belongs in action adventure thrillers where she can elevate a reader's heart rate by injecting an elixir of fear mixed with adrenaline into their veins with her words.

"I feel it's my job as an author to stimulate a reader's mind and heart."

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N. E. ORLOWA

N. E. Orlowa is a Polish-American writer currently living with her partner and greyhound on Cape Cod, Massachusetts. She is working on her debut novel, *Yaga*, a queer retelling of the origin story of the ancient Slavic folklore of Baba Yaga, as told through the eyes of two young women coming into their own power in a world where the shifting balance and dissolving connections between nature, magic, and humankind threatens life as they know it.

[Email](#)

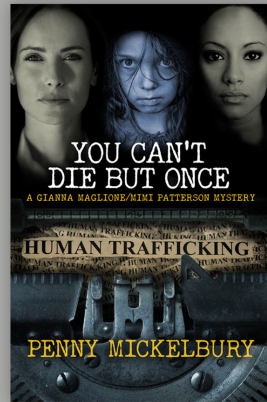
SARA OROZCO

Sara Orozco is a first-generation, middle-aged, queer Latina writer and a three-time Boston Moth StorySLAM winner. Her published essays have appeared in *The Delmarva Review*, *Oxford Magazine*, *HerStry*, *Pulse More Voices*, and *Bay Windows*. Sara is a licensed psychologist and is cur-

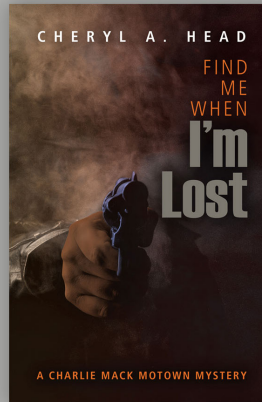
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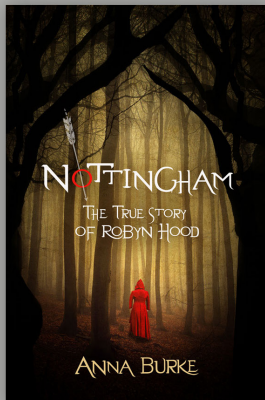
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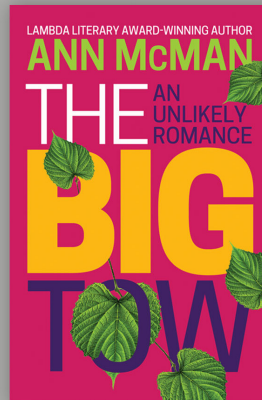
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Popular Choice;
Romantic Blend;
Tee Corinne Cover



Debut Novel;
General Fiction;
Tee Corinne Cover



Humorous
Novel

rently working on a memoir about her Cuban exile experience and the intergenerational toxicity of political obsession. She lives in Boston with her wife and two sons.

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TJ O'SHEA

TJ O'Shea is a New Jerseyian by location and a New Yorker by vocation. When not working in the video game industry or writing angsty queer romances, she enjoys playing video games (but this time for fun), shouting answers at Jeopardy! reruns, amateurishly baking, spending time with her wife, and singing to their cat. O'Shea's rom-com novel *Beyond The Blue* will

be out in Winter 2021, published by Bella Books.

[Email](#) [Twitter](#)

MB PANICHI

MB Panichi's first book, *Saving Morgan*, won a Goldie Award for Science Fiction. *Running Toward Home* is the sequel, followed by *Blood and Roses*, released May 2019. All three are fast-paced Sci-Fi Adventure Romances meant to keep you turning the pages with intrigue and a taste of mystery. *Choosing Love* is a present-day romance set in northern Minnesota. MB hails from Minneapolis, Minnesota, where she lives with her wife and their four Shih Tzu fur babies. MB's obsessions, other than writing, are reading,

drumming, heavy-metal music, bikes, and Star Wars.

[Email](#)

MARIA PEÑA

Maria Peña joined the GCLS in 2016 and has served as Director of Membership and currently Awards Liaison and Director of Diversity and Inclusion where she strives to ensure that the GCLS remains a safe-haven, voice,

2021 PARTICIPANT BIOGRAPHIES

resource, and welcomer of all readers, authors, publishers, editors, narrators, creative talent, and allies of women-loving-women literature. University nursing faculty by day and lover of all things cat-related any time, Maria lives in Illinois with her lovely wife. Maria's short story, "Or Forever Hold Her Peace," was published by Brisk Press in the 2018 anthology, *Written Dreams*, under her pen name Maria Y. Maxwell.

[Email](#)

BJ PHILLIPS

BJ Phillips is proud to be a graduate of the first class of the GCLS Writing Academy in 2015. She writes contemporary romance and cozy-type mystery novels with a bit of humor, all set in her home state of Florida. Her main characters are usually aged from "pushing forty hard" to in their fifties

and sixties because true love knows no age. Desert Palm Press published her Seasons series of romances—*Hurricane Season*, *Snowbird Season*, and *Changing Seasons*—and in 2020 her first mystery, *Murder at Leisure Lakes*. In the works is *Murder at the Pink Flamingo Flea Market*.

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RITA POTTER

Rita Potter has spent most of her life trying to figure out what makes people tick. Her favorite pastime is crawling around inside peoples' brains. Rita's writing reflects her belief that in some way we are all damaged and must conquer our demons in order to create a fulfilling life. She lives in a small town in Illinois with her wife, Terra, and their cat, Chumley. Rita is currently a student of the GCLS Writing Academy 2021. Her

first novel, *Broken not Shattered*, is currently available from Sapphire Books.

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LORI PRINCE

Lori Prince is a classically trained actor with a BFA in drama from Syracuse University. She performed Off-Broadway and at top regional theaters including; The Denver Center, Alliance Theater Company and San Francisco Playhouse among others. She also appeared on television in *Law & Order*, *Law & Order: SVU* and *Are We There Yet?*. Her voice work can be heard in the animated film *Epic*, the audio dramas *Lifeafter* and *Out of Sight*, as well as over 50 feature films and TV shows. For the past five years, Lori has been narrating audiobooks for Audible, Hachette, Harper and Tantor Audio.



Western Women
WRITERS
of New Mexico

WESTERN WOMEN WRITERS of NEW MEXICO

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is back at work searching for
great deals and interesting
attractions to showcase the
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of New Mexico.

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to providing
a memorable experience
for GCLS 2022!

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RADCLYFFE

Radclyffe is the multi-award winning author of over 60 lesbian romance novels and as many short stories. Her latest romance, *Unrivaled*, is another of her popular medical romances featuring sexy, passionate women discovering love in the fast-paced world of the ER and first responders. She is also the founder and president of Bold Strokes Books Inc, one of the world's largest independent queer publishers.

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AMANDA RADLEY

Amanda Radley is an internationally best-selling author of WLW fiction. Amanda won a Lambda award for her comedy caper *Huntress* in 2018. In 2020, her romantic comedy *Fitting In* was an Amazon Kindle Storyteller Award finalist. Summer best-seller, *Going Up*, was shortlisted for the Selfies in 2020. In 2021 she is pleased to have two books short-listed for Goldies: *Death Before Dessert* and *The Startling Inaccuracy of the First Impression*. Residing in the historic city of Chester in England with her Swedish-born fantasy author wife. They happily spend their days with their heads in the clouds making up new adventures.

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J.M. REDMANN

J.M. Redmann has published ten novels featuring New Orleans PI Micky Knight. Her first book was published in 1990, one of the early hard-boiled lesbian detectives. Her books have won three Lambda Literary awards. *The Intersection of Law & Desire* was an Editor's Choice of the San Francisco Chronicle and a recommended book by Maureen Corrigan of NPR's Fresh Air. She is the co-editor with Greg Herren of three anthologies, one *Night Shadows*, was shortlisted for a Shirley Jackson award. Her books have been

translated into German, Spanish, Dutch, Hebrew and Norwegian.

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AURORA REY

Aurora Rey is a college dean by day and award-winning lesbian romance author the rest of the time, except when she's cooking, baking, riding the tractor, or pining for goats. She grew up in a small town in south Louisiana, daydreaming about New England. She is the author of the Cape End Romance series and several standalone contemporary lesbian romance novels and novellas.

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MICHELE M. REYNOLDS

Reynolds is a stay-at-home-pandemic parent. Her 10th indie book *Six Feet* will be released the Summer 2021. It's a sexy neighbor romance with three foster kids (thus six feet) and a pool during a pandemic. Reynolds is ecstatic member of the WLW writer and reader collaborative iReadIndies (iReadIndies.com), a graduate of the 2017 GCLS Writing Academy, the GCLS Director of Organization and coordinator of the mission ministry at her Episcopal Church. Reynolds loves hanging with her five kids (ages 19 to 7 ½) and steals as much time as she can with her phenomenal wife Kelly.

[Website](#) [Email](#)

KC RICHARDSON

KC Richardson attended college on a basketball scholarship, and her numerous injuries in her various sports led her to a career in physical therapy. Her love for reading and writing allows her to create characters and tell their stories. She and her wife live in Southern California where they are trying to raise respectful fur kids. When KC isn't torturing people in physical therapy, she loves spending time with her wonderful friends and family, reading, writing, kayaking, working out, and playing golf.

[Website](#) [Email](#) [Twitter](#)

CHERI RITZ

Cheri Ritz is the author of *Vacation People*, *Let the Beat Drop*, and *Love's No Joke* all published with Bella Books. Her next novel, *Low Key Love* will be released later this year. She loves a good romance, so writing some happily ever after to share with the world is a dream come true! She enjoys attending her sons' many activities, brushing up on pop culture trivia, and spending cozy weekends marathoning TV shows. She lives in a suburb of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania with her wife, three sons, and the Sweetest Cat in the World.

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CINDY RIZZO

Cindy Rizzo's young adult speculative fiction novel, *The Papercutter (Part I of The Split Series)*, will be released by Bella Books in June 2021. She is the author of three previously published novels, *Getting Back*, *Love Is Enough*, and *Exception to the Rule*, which won the 2014 Goldie for Best Debut Author. Her short stories and essays have appeared in *Unwrap These Presents*, *Conference Call*, *Language of Love*, *Our Happy Hours: LGBT Voices from the Gay Bars* and on Medium.com. Cindy lives in NYC and works in social justice philanthropy.

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ANN ROBERTS

Award-winning author Ann Roberts has published twenty mystery, romance, and general fiction novels, including this year's Goldie finalist, *Dying on the Vine*. In September 2021, Ann will release *The Convincing Hour*, her first YA novel. She's very excited for the world to meet fifteen-year-old Story Black, a girl determined to fight for her future. When Ann isn't writing, editing, or coaching, she can be found traipsing around lighthouses or visiting vineyards with her wife/partner of twenty-seven years.

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POL ROBINSON

Pol's a professor and writer who lives in Washington with her partner of 23 years, Sheryl, and their two dogs, Hopper and Murphy. Pol is a past Goldie and Alice B. Reader Certificate winner for *Open Water* (Bella Books). She's also published a few short stories, most recently in *Happily Ever After* (Bella Books). Her newest book, *[Un]Common Ground*, was coauthored with Erica Abbott and is available from Bella Books. If she's not writing, she's probably in her wood-working shop or on the water.

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RENEE ROMAN

Renee Roman lives in upstate New York where she embraces the change of seasons. She is passionate about cooking, entertaining, and writing lesbian romance and erotica. Her works include her debut novel *Epicurean Delights*, *Bonded Love*, and most recently, *Body Language*. "Hard Body" was her first solo erotic short story. Renee is writing her seventh novel, *Escorted*, and has several more ideas taking form. Rest assured; this is not where her stories end.

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RJ SAMUEL

RJ Samuel is the Indian-Irish-American author of five critically acclaimed novels set in Ireland, India, France, and America - *Heart Stopper*, *The Vision Painter* series (*Falling Colours* and *Casting Shadows*), *A Place Somewhere* (finalist Ann Bannon Popular Choice/Tee Corinne Cover Design Awards), *An Outsider Inside* (described in *Curve Magazine* as 'who you were before is not who you are when you've finished it,' named 'Best Lesbian Novel in 2017' by *The Lesbian Review*, Rainbow Awards Honorable Mention, Winner 2017 Ann Bannon Popular Choice and Tee Corinne Cover Design Awards). RJ lives in Atlanta with her rescued dog and cats.

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[Twitter](#) [Instagram](#)

PATTY SCHRAMM

Patty is the Goldie Award-winning co-editor of *Blue Collar Lesbian Erotica* with Verda Foster. She and Verda also coedited *Women in Uniform: Medics and Soldiers and Cops, Oh My!* and *Women In Sports*. Her first novel, *Souls' Rescue* was a finalist for the Ann Bannon Popular Choice Award. Patty is a past Executive Director of the Golden Crown Literary Society. She is a retired paramedic and owner/publisher of Flashpoint Publications: www.flashpointpublications.com. Her newest release is *For the Love of Charley*, book 3 in the Romance in the Yukon Series.

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PAULA SCHUMACHER

Paula Schumacher has been writing since she was taught to hold a crayon. First she wrote her name (which is how her father knew who was writing on the walls in the closet upstairs), then sentences, angst-laden stories, and poems of the quiet wonder of winter in Northern Michigan (the UP). In college, Paula studied engineering, journalism, and languages. After earning an MBA, she settled into an IT career. Today she is finishing up a speculative historical novel, listening to music and enjoying art more, and spending a wonderful amount of time with her partner, Linda, and extended family.

[Website](#)

RILEY SCOTT

In addition to having published poetry and short stories, Riley Scott has worked as a grant and press writer and a marketing professional. She holds a degree in journalism. Riley's love for fiction began at a young age, and she has been penning stories for over a decade. Her days and her writing alike are fueled by strong coffee, humor, people watching, and just enough daydreaming to craft imaginative novels. She lives in Pensacola, Florida with the love of her life and their three beloved dogs.

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CASS SELLARS

Cass Sellars is a certified fraud examiner and criminal justice professional. She has led white-collar criminal, corporate and financial fraud, and theft investigation. Formerly an editor of a small magazine, a creative journalist, and public speaker, she's been a contemporary romance author since 2014. Sellars grew up in the Midwest and in Great Britain but spent much of her adult life on the East Coast. She currently lives near San Francisco. She dabbles in interior design, event planning, singing, travel (when there's no pandemic, of course), and women's music.

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ADRIAN SHANKER

Adrian Shanker is editor of the critically-acclaimed anthology *Bodies and Barriers: Queer Activists on Health* (PM Press, 2020), which has been named by Book Riot as one of the top "11 books addressing bias against women in healthcare and medicine." The book includes essays by 26 queer activists from around the world including many lesbian, bisexual, and queer women. Adrian lives on the original and unceded Lenape Land in Allentown, Pennsylvania where he is the executive director of Bradbury-Sullivan LGBT Community Center.

[Website](#) [Email](#) [Instagram](#)

L.L. SHELTON

L.L. Shelton is an indie author of lesbian fiction, with genres including but not limited to contemporary romance, erotica, and paranormal. She has published four novels, two novellas, and two short stories. Her newest publications include: *Blood Runs Through The Heart* (self-published 2019), *The Woman in the Guest House* (self-published 2020), and the series *Nights of Lily Ann* that includes her latest book, *Nights of Lily Ann: Redemption of Carly* (self-published June 2020). Her next book *Dani's Heart* will be released in 2021, a book that promises love, sadness, and joy.

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2021 PARTICIPANT BIOGRAPHIES

TAGAN SHEPARD

Tagan Shepard (she/her) has always spent quiet moments weaving stories in her head. It didn't occur to her until recently to write them down. Now she's started, she can't seem to stop. She's a history buff, gamer, and unrepentant nerd. She lives in Virginia with her very patient wife and two surly cats. Her previous publications with Bella Books include *Visiting Hours*, *Bird on a Wire*, *Across the Dark Horizon*, *And Then There Was Her*, and *Queen of Humboldt*. Her short story "Out With the Old" in *Save the Date* and latest novel, *Swipe Right*, were published in June 2021.

[Email](#) [Facebook](#) [Twitter](#)

RACHEL SPANGLER

Rachel Spangler is the Goldie, IPPY, and Alice B award-winning author of nineteen women-loving-women romance novels, including the Lambda finalists *Heart of the Game*, *Perfect Pairing*, *Close to Home*, and *In Development*. They live with their wife and son in Western New York, and always make time for a good romance, whether reading it, writing it, or living it.

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[Twitter](#) [Instagram](#)

NANCE SPARKS

A vivid imagination spurred Nance Sparks' desire to write lesbian romance. Nance lives in south central Wisconsin with her spouse. Her passion for photography, homesteading, hiking, gardening and most anything outdoors comes through in her stories. When the sun is out and the sky is blue, especially during the golden hour, Nance can be found on the Wisconsin River with a camera in hand capturing shots of large birds in flight.

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KARELIA STETZ-WATERS

Karelia Stetz-Waters (she/her) writes happily-ever-afters for women who love women. Whether it's romance or thriller, her characters get the epic wins they deserve and more. She lives her own happily-ever-after in Oregon with her wife of 20+ years. When she's not writing, she's teaching college writing, gardening, drawing, or trying to figure out how to make a model of the clitoris out of paper maché.

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courage to do anything with them, until, as part of a 'bucket list' challenge Sue independently published her first novel in collaboration with a friend from Cornwall. Sue is currently working on the first novel in a speculative fantasy trilogy. When not writing Sue loves to read and collects all types of 'women's' books. She also likes to spend time in the forest with her two Labrador dogs and trusty camera.

[Website](#) [Email](#) [Facebook](#)

NICOLE STILING

Nicole Stiling lives in New England with her wife, two children, two dogs, and a claw-happy cat. She enjoys horror movies, video games, board games, reading, and solitude. She's learned to embrace her paralyzing shyness and loves a good pun. All three books Nicole has written can be found at boldstrokesbooks.com: *Secrets in a Small Town* (2019), *In the Shadow of Darkness* (2020), and most recently, *Heart of the Storm* (2020). Nicole believes the wild intoxication of an enemies-to-lovers romance cannot be overstated.

[Website](#) [Email](#) [Twitter](#)

CARSEN TAITE

Carsen Taite's goal as an author is to spin tales with plot lines as interesting as the cases she encountered in her career as a criminal defense lawyer. She is the award-winning author of twenty-eight novels of mystery, romance, and romantic intrigue, including the Luca Bennett Bounty Hunter series, the Lone Star Law series, and the Legal Affairs Romances. Her latest novel, *Her Consigliere*, is a standalone romantic suspense, available in June 2021.

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[Twitter](#)

C. L. TAYLOR

C. L. Taylor (she/her, they/them) is a PNW-based queer BIPOC creator whose work appeared in *Type-house Literary Magazine*, *Kaaterskill Basin Literary Journal*, *Versification*, *Anti-Heroine Chic*, *Lunch Ticket*, and

SUE STILL

Sue Still is an author, nutritionist and part time genealogist living in the New Forest, England. Sue has always had stories in her head, but never the

2021 PARTICIPANT BIOGRAPHIES

LEZ TALK ABOUT BOOKS, BABY!

Monthly Podcast
featuring your
favorite Lesbian
Authors. Tune in!



anthologies by Brisk and Alyson Publications. Their short story "The Limb Garden" appeared in *Three Crows Magazine*. Their short story, "The Hunger of Forgotten Memories," which appeared in *Roulette*, is in development as a short film. An admitted coffee fanatic, they love getting lost on back roads. When not creating, they chase mindfulness, run too many 5ks, get excited about trawling vintage stores, and often fall asleep in savasana pose.

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JESSE THOMA

Jesse Thoma has written six novels, including her two most recent releases, *Serenity* (August 2020) and *Courage* (April 2021). Although she works best under the pressure of a deadline, she balks at being told what to do. Despite that, she's no fool and knows she'd be lost without her editor's brilliance. While writing Jesse is usually under the close supervision of a judgmental cat or a snoring dog. Jesse loves to write what she knows or what she wishes was true in the world. Someday she hopes to write a book where someone wears a cape and can fly.

[Email](#)

JULIE TIZARD

Julie Tizard, the award-winning author of, *The Road to Wings*, has been

a professional pilot for forty years. One of the early women US Air Force pilots, Colonel Tizard was a T-37 instructor pilot, KC-10 air refueling tanker pilot, squadron commander, and aircraft accident investigator. As an airline captain, she has flown the Boeing 737, 757, 767, the DC-10, and the Airbus 320. Her second novel, *Flight to the Horizon*, is a finalist for two Forward INDIES awards and her third novel, *Free Fall at Angel Creek*, will be released October, 2021.

[Website](#) [Email](#)

J. TORRES

J. Torres writes stories about women loving women in a wide variety of genres, including contemporary romance. She focuses on diverse, strong female characters. Born and raised in Puerto Rico, she now lives in Tampa, Florida (U.S.) with her life partner, three dogs, and an alley cat who comes home only for food. When she's not begrudgingly working for "the man," she's writing or racking up brownie points by knocking down the honey-do list.

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ALI VALI

Ali Vali is the author of *The Devil* series, which includes six books, and the *Devil Incarnate*. Ali is also known for the *Forces* series, the *Calling* series,

and numerous standalones including the 2021 Lambda Literary finalist *One More Chance* and her latest *A Woman to Treasure*. When she's not writing Ali loves working in her yard, fishing, and cheering LSU. Ali currently lives outside New Orleans.

[Email](#) [Facebook](#)

LAINA VILLENEUVE

Laina Villeneuve has published seven romance novels with Bella Books. She has used her degree in equine sciences and experience as a backcountry cowgirl in *Take Only Pictures*, *The Right Thing Easy*, and *Cowgirl 101*. *Such Happiness as This* and *Return to Paradise* are set in the California mountain towns of Quincy and Arca-ta and feature couples from the first two books as support characters. Two books are set in Southern California: *Kat's Nine Lives*, a friends-to-lovers romance, and her latest novel *Cure for Insomnia*, which features women in science. Her current WIP is centered on a conflict about peafowl.

[Email](#) [Facebook](#)

KELLY WACKER

Kelly Wacker, raised in the West, lives in the Deep South where she teaches art history and environmental studies. Writing in the genres of romance, paranormal/urban fantasy, and historical fiction, she believes in the idea that all stories are true. Her feeling of connection to the natural world runs deep and she spends as much time as she can observing, thinking, and engaging her sense of wonder while walking with her canine companion in the fields and along the creeks near her home. Additionally, she finds inspiration in good conversation, art, music, and strong coffee.

[Website](#) [Facebook](#) [Instagram](#)

DILLON WATSON

Dillon Watson resides in the Southeastern United States. She has won Goldies (Golden Crown Literary Society) for Best Debut Author and Best Contemporary Romance. She has also been short-listed for a Goldie in

2021 PARTICIPANT BIOGRAPHIES

the categories of Best Paranormal/Horror and Mystery/Thriller, and a Lammy (Lambda Literary Foundation) in the Romance category. Her novels include: *Keile's Chance*, *Back to Blue*, *Full Circle* and *The Secret Unknown*.

[Website](#) [Email](#)

LANEY WEBBER

Laney Webber lives in Vermont with her very funny and patient wife and a snarky cat named Rudy Valentino. She's also a librarian, and along with writing books, loves recommending and reviewing them. Laney has also reviewed books for The Lesbian Review. Bold Strokes Books has published her story "Bat Girl" in the anthology, *Girls Next Door*, (2017) edited by Sandy Lowe and Stacia Seaman and her small-town lesbian romance novels, *A Chapter on Love*, (2019) and *The Real Thing*, (2020). Laney's stories are set in all her favorite places in New England.

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[Instagram](#)

CARIN J. WERLINGER

Caren has lived in Virginia for over thirty years with her wife and their canine fur-children. She was influenced by a diverse array of authors, including Rumer Godden, J.R.R. Tolkien, Ursula Le Guin, Willa Cather, the Brontë sisters, and, of course, Carolyn Keene. A four-time Goldie Winner, she has presented and participated on numerous panels at GCLS. She is currently working on her seventeenth novel, *An Unlit Candle*.

[Website](#) [Email](#) [Facebook](#)

LAUREN EMILY WHALEN

Lauren Emily Whalen is the author of *Two Winters*, a queer YA reimagining of Shakespeare's *The Winter's Tale*, which will be released by Bold Strokes Books on September 14. Lauren has written two other books for young adults: the novel *Satellite* (2017) and the nonfiction book *Dealing with Drama* (2021). Her queer YA short story "I Saw Her Again" appears in

the holiday ghost anthology *Link* by Link (2020). Lauren is a freelance writer, professional performer, and very amateur aerialist. She lives in Chicago with her cat, Versace, and an apartment full of books.

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KAREN F. WILLIAMS

In addition to her paranormal romances, Karen publishes articles on wildlife, nature, and the human-animal bond. She divides her time between New York City and rural Massachusetts, but prefers the country, as do her cats and six dogs. She credits the coyotes who share her land, and allow her to observe them, with inspiring a unique twist on the werewolf trope. Their presence, combined with her career in clinical social work, set the stage for *Coyote Blues*, the paranormal thriller that explores family, lycanthropy, the evils of narcissism, and the redemption of love.

[Website](#) [Email](#)

KD WILLIAMSON

KD is a Southerner and a former nomad, taking up residence in the Midwest, east coast, and New Orleans over the years. She enjoys all things geek from video games to super heroes. KD is a veteran in the mental health field and she discovered writing as a teenager with the help of her English teacher, whom she had a huge crush on. Years later, writing fanfic became her gateway into lesbian fiction and she hasn't looked back. She's written five books with Ylva Publishing and one, her most recent, *Big Girl Pill*, with Dirt Road Books.

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[Twitter](#) [Instagram](#)

BARBARA WILSON

Barbara Wilson is the author of *Not the Real Jupiter: A Cassandra Reilly Mystery* and seven previous mysteries, including *Murder in the Collective*. *Gaudí Afternoon* introduced translator-sleuth Cassandra Reilly and

was made into a movie starring Judy Davis and Marcia Gay Hardin. She is a winner of two Lambda Literary awards and the British Crime Writers' award for best thriller set in Europe. For her contributions to lesbian literature she received the 2020 Golden Crown Literary Society Trailblazer Award.

[Website](#)

ANA K. WRENN

Ana K. Wrenn is an award-winning professor, researcher, and writer. She spent decades authoring dozens of scholarly articles and nonfiction essays about women's lives, losses, and loves. In *Strange Attractors*, her debut novel (Ylva Publishing, 2022), Ana takes readers into the underbelly of academia, populating her fictional world with deliciously complicated female characters and riddling the chilling storyline with often-hidden treacheries of university life. Ana is a member of the Golden Crown Literary Society, Tennessee Mountain Writers Association, and Women's Fiction Writers Association.

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BARBARA ANN WRIGHT

Barbara Ann Wright writes fantasy and science fiction novels and short stories in between naps. Her work has made recommended reading lists on *Tor.com*, *Book Riot*, and *Syfy.com*. She's won five Rainbow Awards and has been a finalist in the *Foreword Review* Book of the Year Award, the Goldie Awards, and the Lambda Awards.

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SHERYL WRIGHT

Sheryl has been writing for over a dozen years now, starting with the award-winning *Contrary Warriors* series. With her most recent book, due this month, *Illusion Lake* she returns to her love of intrigue and women protagonists who kick ass. As a writer, she aims to bring characters to life while exploring the process of crafting adventures for readers and audiences devoted to the Happy Ever After story. Besides writing, she keeps Honey Bee's, writes code, and is currently building an autonomous robot from urban scrap.

[Website](#) [Email](#) [Facebook](#)

ERIN ZAK

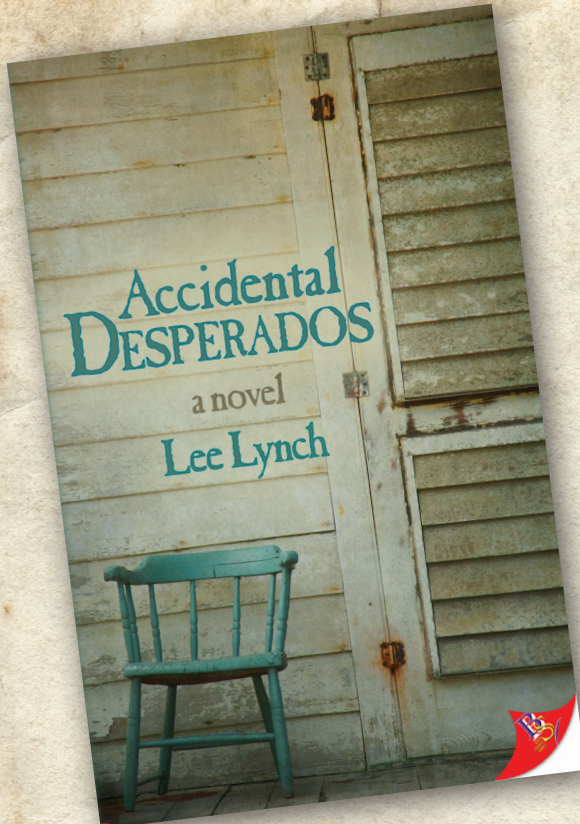
Erin Zak resides in Florida and she hopes you won't hold that against her. She enjoys not shoveling the snow, which is one of the only good things about the state. When she's not writing, she's feeling bad about not writing, obsessively collecting Star Wars memorabilia, and planning the next trip to Disney World. *Falling into Her*, Erin's first book, was a Goldie finalist. *Breaking Down Her Walls* and *Create a Life to Love* were both Lammy finalists.

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CHRIS ZETT

Chris Zett lives in Berlin, Germany, with her wife. TV inspired her to study medicine, but she found out soon enough that real life in a hospital consists more of working long hours than performing heroic rescues. The part about finding a workplace romance turned out to be true, though. She uses any opportunity to escape the routine by reading, writing, or traveling. Her favorite destinations include penguin colonies in Patagonia and stone circles in Scotland. Recently, another dream came true and she's looking forward to many summer adventures with her wife in their camper van.

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**"Our literature attests
to our very diverse
existence, to the fact
that we survive despite
all efforts to suppress us,
and that we live happy
and fulfilled lives."**

—Lee Lynch

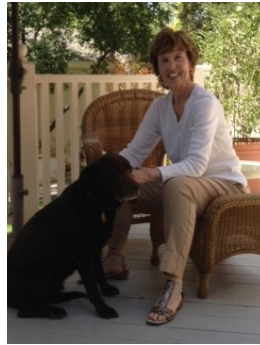
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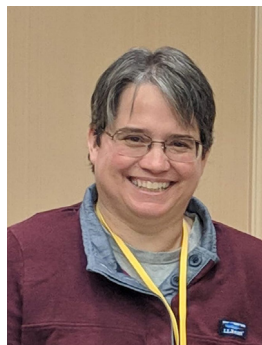
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CHARLOTTE GREENE



SHEREE L. GREER



MARY GRIGGS



MB GUEL



VERONICA GUTIÉRREZ



ANNE HAGAN



KATE HAZEL HALL



ELLEN HART



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SCARLETT KNIGHT



GEORGIA KOLIAS



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RACHEL LACEY

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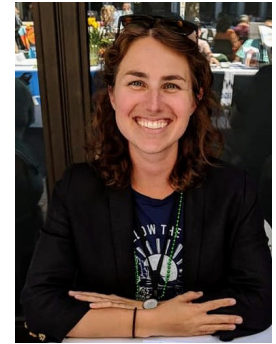
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RJ LAYER



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JEANNIE LEVIG



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TONI LOGAN



KC LUCK



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NYSSA MACKINNON



RAE D. MAGDON



CATHERINE MAIORISI



NANCY MANAHAN

PARTICIPANT GALLERY



DIANE MARINA



JB MARSDEN



MARIANNE K. MARTIN



PAULA MARTINAC



MCGEE MATHEWS



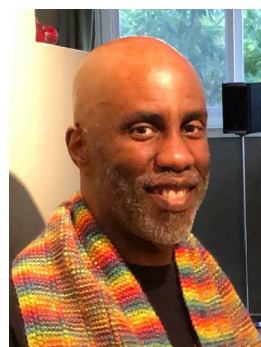
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ERIN MCKENZIE



ANN MCMAN



GAR MCVEY-RUSSELL



SUSAN X MEAGHER



PENNY MICKELBURY



MARTHA MILLER



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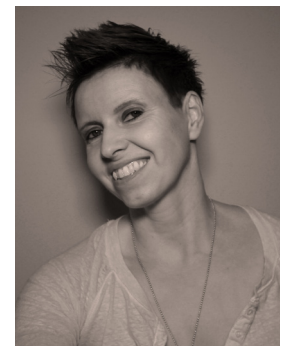
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CJ MURPHY



E. J. NOYES



ROBYN NYX



OCEAN



N. E. ORLOWA



SARA OROZCO



TJ O'SHEA



MB PANICHI



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KC RICHARDSON



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POL ROBINSON



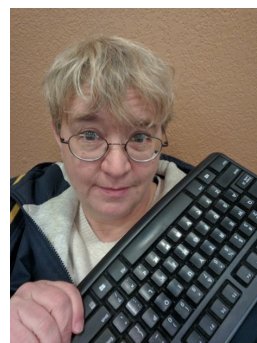
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RJ SAMUEL



PATTY SCHRAMM



PAULA SCHUMACHER



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PARTICIPANT GALLERY



CASS SELLARS



ADRIAN SHANKER



L.L. SHELTON



TAGAN SHEPARD



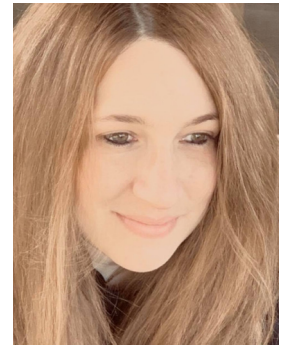
RACHEL SPANGLER



NANCE SPARKS



KARELIA STETZ-
WATERS



NICOLE STILING



SUE STILL



CARSEN TAITE



C. L. TAYLOR



JESSE THOMA



JULIE TIZARD



J. TORRES



ALI VALI



LAINA VILLENEUVE

PARTICIPANT GALLERY



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DILLON WATSON



LANEY WEBBER



CARIN J. WERLINGER



LAUREN EMILY
WHALEN



KAREN F. WILLIAMS



KD WILLIAMSON



BARBARA WILSON



ANA K. WRENN



BARBARA ANN
WRIGHT



SHERYL WRIGHT



ERIN ZAK



CHRIS ZETT



SPECIAL GUESTS



Vivian A. Lotz

S. Renée Bess

Renée Bess, a former teacher, began writing in earnest after her short story, "At the Beauty Parlor," won first place in a Philadelphia area literary contest.

Her novels, *Leave of Absence*, *Breaking Jaie*, *RE: Building Sasha*, *The Butterfly Moments*, and *The Rules*, published by Regal Crest Enterprises, explore the genres of romance with intrigue and general dramatic fiction. Renée and Lee Lynch co-curated *Our Happy Hours*, *LGBT Voices from the Gay Bars*, an anthology of short fiction, memoirs, and poetry which won the Golden Crown Literary Society's 2018 Anthology Award. She is so proud to be one of the four recipients of the 2019 Alice B. Readers Awards.

Renée remains committed to writing stories that include diverse characters, cogent social themes, and well-crafted language.



Punch Photographic

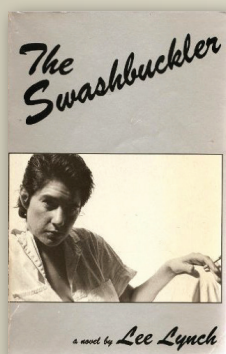
Emma Donoghue

Born in Dublin in 1969, Emma Donoghue is an Irish emigrant twice over. She received her Ph.D. in eighteenth-century literature from the University of Cambridge before moving to London, Ontario, where she lives with her partner and their two children. She migrates between genres, writing literary history, biography, stage and radio plays, fairy tales, and short stories. Donoghue's other critically acclaimed novels range from the historical (*Frog Music*, *Slammerkin*, *Life Mask*, *The Sealed Letter*) to the contemporary (*Stir-Fry*, *Hood*, *Landing*).

Donoghue is the 2008 Goldie Award Winner for her novel, *Landing*. Her 2010 novel *Room* was a finalist for the Man Booker, Commonwealth, and Orange Prizes and later made into an Academy Award-winning movie. Donoghue received a nomination for her screenplay.

Her timely July 2020 release, *The Pull of the Stars*, takes place in a Dublin, Ireland, maternity ward at the height of the Great Flu in 1918.

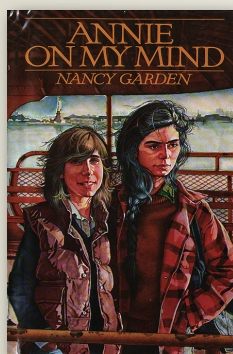
LEE LYNCH CLASSIC AWARD RECIPIENTS



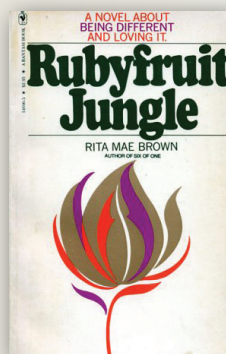
2012 • The Swashbuckler
Lee Lynch



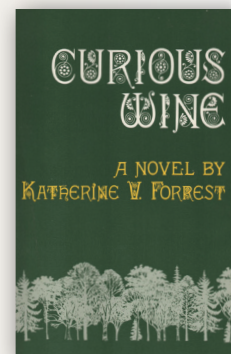
2013 • Spring Fire
Vin Packer (Marijane Meaker)



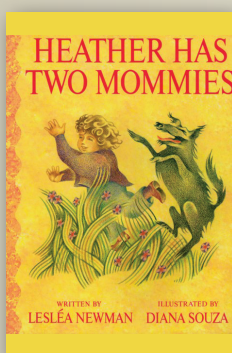
2014 • Annie On My Mind
Nancy Garden



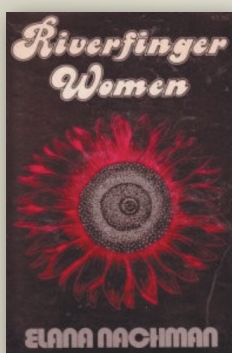
2015 • Rubyfruit Jungle
Rita Mae Brown



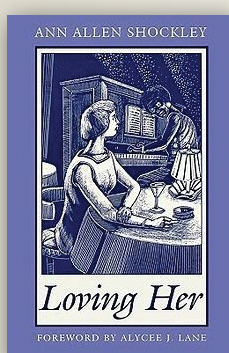
2016 • Curious Wine
Katherine V. Forrest



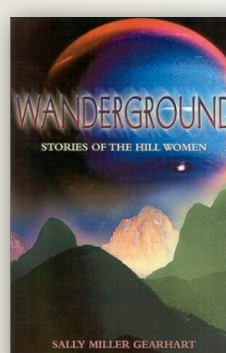
2017 • Heather Has Two Mommies
Lesléa Newman



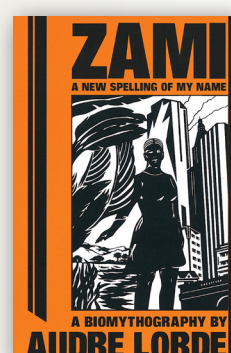
2018 • Riverfinger Women
Elana Dykewomon



2019 • Loving Her
Ann Allen Shockley



2020 • Wanderground
Sally Miller Gearhart



2021 • Zami
Audre Lorde

TRAILBLAZER AWARD RECIPIENTS



Ann Bannon
2005



Sarah Aldridge
2006



Jane Rule
2007



Katherine V. Forrest
2008



Lee Lynch
2009



Ellen Hart
2010



Karin Kallmaker
2011



Marianne K. Martin
2012



Marijane Meaker
2013



Judy Grahn
2014



Joan Nestle
2015



Jewelle Gomez
2016



Lillian Faderman
2017



Dorothy Allison
2018



Sandra Scoppettone
2019



Barbara Wilson
2020



Pat Parker
2021

TRAILBLAZER AWARD

Pat Parker

As a key part of the West Coast poetry community that formed through women's groups and included poets such as Judy Grahn, the 2014 GCLS Trailblazer Award winner, Parker grounded her work in oral and spoken word traditions, autobiography, and radical politics. Her poems contain sharp, sometimes biting social commentary, but she also explored queer experience and female love with tenderness and hope. She was known for her unflinching honesty in addressing issues of sex, race, motherhood, alcoholism, and domestic violence.



Parker's longtime friend Audre Lorde called Parker's poetry, "clean and sharp without ever being neat." Parker was the author of five poetry collections: *Jonestown and other Madness* (Firebrand Books, 1985), *Movement in Black* (Diana Press, 1978), *Woman Slaughter* (Diana Press, 1978), *Pit Stop* (Women's Press Collective, 1975), and *Child of Myself* (Women's Press Collective, 1972). In 2016, Sinister Wisdom published ***The Complete Works of Pat Parker***, edited by Dr. Julie Enszer. ***Sister Love: The Letters of Audre Lorde and Pat Parker 1974-1989***, edited by Dr. Julie Enszer, was published by A Midsummer Night's Press in 2018.

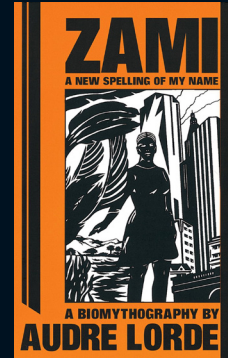
After Pat Parker's devastatingly premature death, her lifelong friend Judy Grahn described the way Parker lived life and overcame challenges, as "go[ing] to the front of the line with a big bad sword in hand and lead[ing] a revolution."

Photo of Pat Parker courtesy JEB Productions

LEE LYNCH CLASSIC AWARD

Zami: A New Spelling of My Name

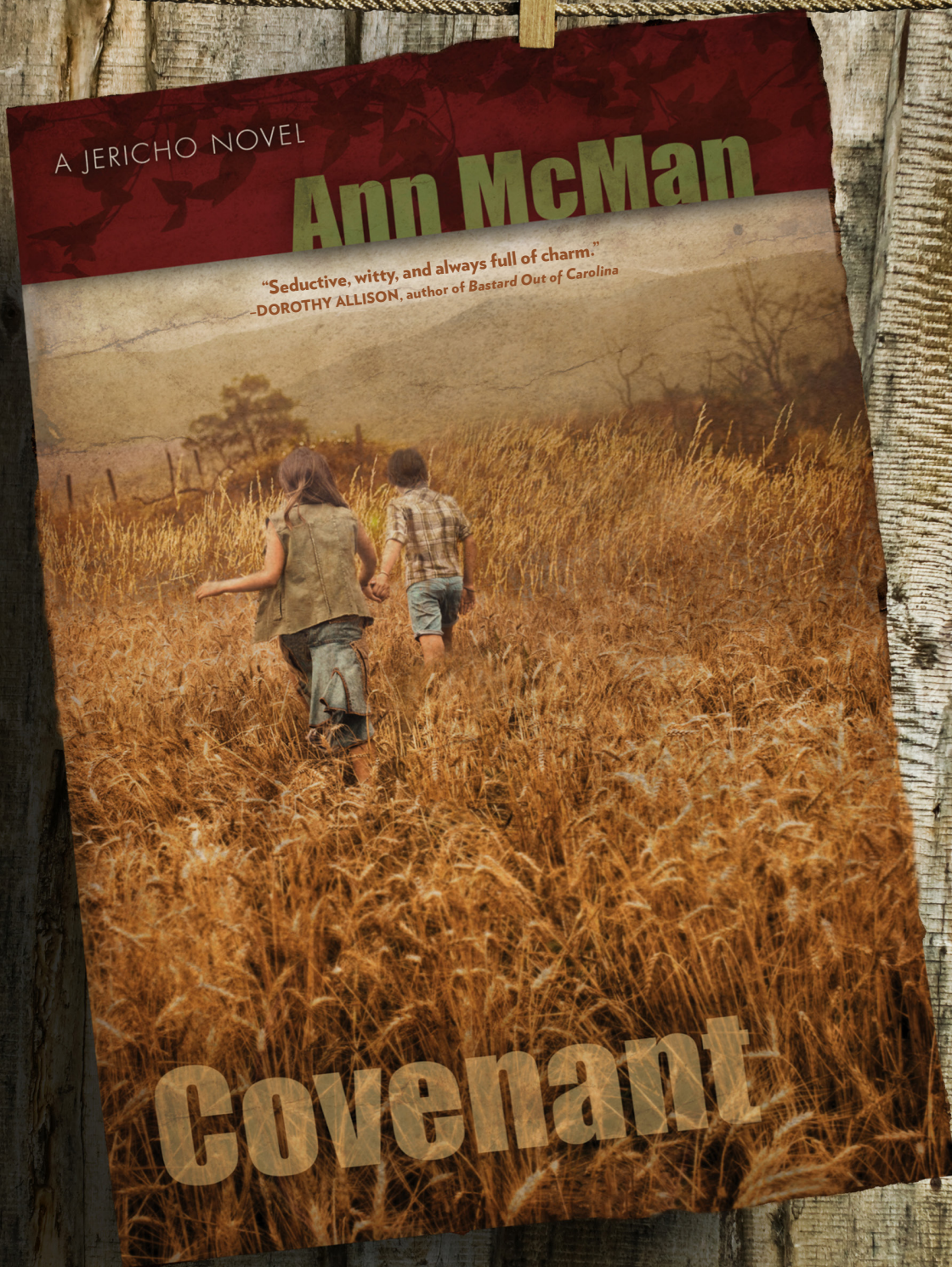
Zami: A New Spelling of My Name by Audre Lorde is an essential exploration of intersectionality. In creating what she termed a "biomythography" (combining elements of history, biography, and myth), Lorde explores what it means "to be Black, to be Black and female, to be Black, female, and gay in a white environment..."



In her 1982 *New York Times* review, Rosemary Daniell states, "...among the elements that make the book so good are its personal honesty and lack of pretentiousness, characteristics that shine through the writing, bespeaking the evolution of a strong and remarkable character. The reader quickly grows to love the sturdy little black girl.... With her, we experience the pain of her gradual recognition of racism.... We share her growing awareness of her attraction toward her own sex.... We live with her through her first primary love relationship and its excruciating conclusion.... Throughout, her experiences are painted with exquisite imagery."

Lee Lynch, 2009 Trailblazer recipient, described the impact *Zami: A New Spelling of My Name* has had on her, both personally and professionally:

"In *Zami: A New Spelling of My Name*, Audre Lorde legitimized for me my queerness in a way I had not experienced. Here was a mature, wholly realized lesbian of great pride and stature who, in her exploration of self, race, class—the human experience—spilled a poet's words of magic that inveigled me to respect and continue the life I chose to live and the work I felt called to do. Reading Lorde's book is an honor and an entrance to a rarefied vision of our lesbian selves in the world."



Return to Jericho.

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JULY 31, 2021 • 4 P.M. EST



17TH ANNUAL GOLDIE AWARDS PROGRAM

WELCOME

Non-Fiction

Romantic Blend

Contemporary Romance: Short Novels

Fiction Anthologies/Collections

Mystery/Thriller/Crime

Young Adult Fiction

Contemporary Romance: Mid-Length Novels

Humorous Novels

Paranormal/Occult/Horror

Erotic Novels

General Fiction

New Adult Fiction

Historical Fiction

Contemporary Romance: Long Novels

Science Fiction / Fantasy

Debut Novel

RECOGNITION OF LOST SISTERS

Ann Bannon Popular Choice Award

Tee Corinne Outstanding Cover Design

Directors' Award

Lee Lynch Classic Award

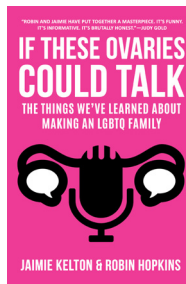
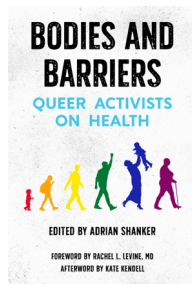
Presented to Audre Lorde

Zami: A New Spelling of My Name

Trailblazer Award

Presented to Pat Parker

2021 GOLDIE FINALISTS



Non-Fiction

[Bodies and Barriers: Queer Activists on Health](#)

Adrian Shanker (ed.)
PM Press

[If These Ovaries Could Talk: The Things We've Learned About Making an LGBTQ Family](#)

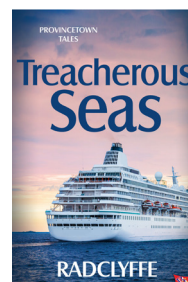
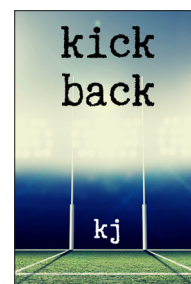
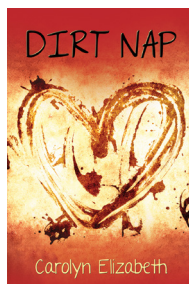
Robin Hopkins & Jaimie Kelton
Lit Riot Press, LLC

[Olivia on the Record: A Radical Experiment in Women's Music](#)

Ginny Z Berson
Aunt Lute Books

[Not That I'd Kiss a Girl](#)

Lil O'Brien
Allen & Unwin



Romantic Blend

[Dirt Nap](#)
Carolyn Elizabeth
Bella Books

[Heart of the Storm](#)
Nicole Stiling
Bold Strokes Books

[Hotel Queens](#)
Lee Winter
Ylva Publishing

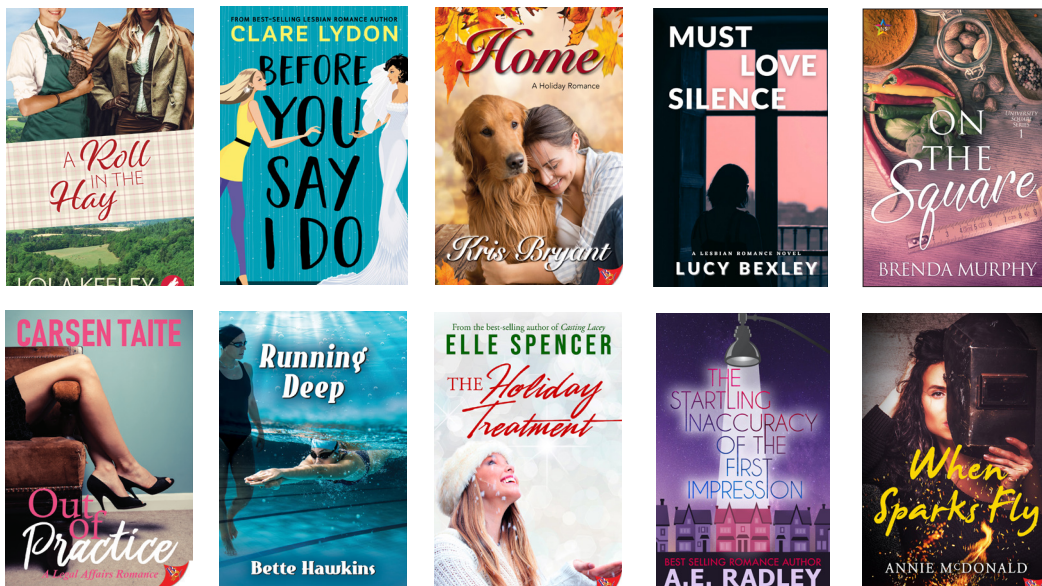
[Kick Back](#)
KJ
Self-Published

[Nottingham: The True Story of Robyn Hood](#)

Anna Burke
Bywater Books

[Sylver and Gold](#)
Michelle Larkin
Bold Strokes Books

[Treacherous Seas](#)
Radclyffe
Bold Strokes Books



Contemporary Romance: Short Novels

[A Roll in the Hay](#)

Lola Keeley

Ylva Publishing

[Before You Say I Do](#)

Clare Lydon

Custard Books

[Home](#)

Kris Bryant

Bold Strokes Books

[Must Love Silence](#)

Lucy Bexley

Self-Published

[On the Square](#)

Brenda Murphy

Ninestar Press

[Out of Practice](#)

Carsen Taite

Bold Strokes Books

[Running Deep](#)

Bette Hawkins

Bella Books

[The Holiday Treatment](#)

Elle Spencer

Bold Strokes Books

[The Startling Inaccuracy of the](#)

[First Impression](#)

A.E. Radley

Heartsome Publishing

[When Sparks Fly](#)

Annie McDonald

Bold Strokes Books



Fiction Anthologies/Collections

[All I Want for Christmas](#)

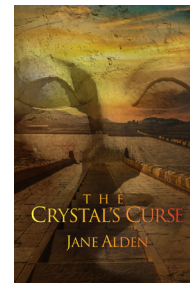
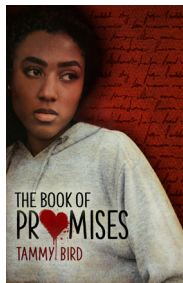
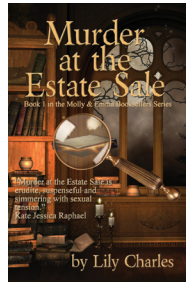
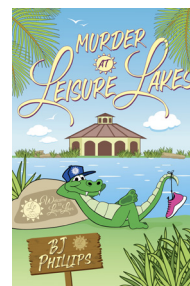
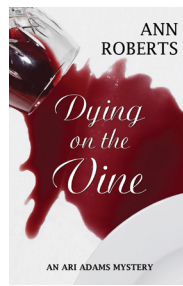
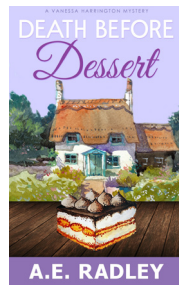
Georgia Beers, Maggie Cummings, Fiona Riley

Bold Strokes Books

[Three Alarm Response](#)

Erin Dutton

Bold Strokes Books



Mystery/Thriller/Crime

[Death Before Dessert](#)
A.E. Radley
Heartsome Publishing

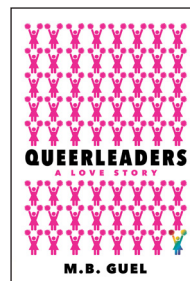
[Dying on the Vine](#)
Ann Roberts
Bella Books

[Murder at Leisure Lakes](#)
BJ Phillips
Desert Palm Press

[Murder at the Estate Sale](#)
Lily Charles
Black Opal Books

[The Book of Promises](#)
Tammy Bird
Flashpoint Publications

[The Crystal's Curse](#)
Jane Alden
Desert Palm Press



Young Adult Fiction

[Queerleaders](#)
M.B. Guel
Bella Books

[The Year Shakespeare
Ruined My Life](#)
Dani Jansen
Second Story Press



Contemporary Romance: Mid-Length Novels

[Aurora](#)
Emma L. McGeown
 Bold Strokes Books

[Blades of Bluegrass](#)
D. Jackson Leigh
 Bold Strokes Books

[Bulletproof](#)
Maggie Cummings
 Bold Strokes Books

[Don't Cry for Me](#)
Rachel Lacey
 Self-Published

[Hopeless Romantic](#)
Georgia Beers
 Bold Strokes Books

[Love on the Night Shift](#)
Radclyffe
 Bold Strokes Books

[Serenity](#)
Jesse J. Thoma
 Bold Strokes Books

[Temptation](#)
Kris Bryant
 Bold Strokes Books

[The Duchess and the Dreamer](#)
Jenny Frame
 Bold Strokes Books

[The Love Factor](#)
Quinn Ivins
 Ylva Publishing

[Twice Shy](#)
Aurora Rey
 Bold Strokes Books



Humorous Novels

[Mutual Benefits](#)

HP Munro

Red Besom Books

[The Big Tow](#)

Ann McMan

Bywater Books



Paranormal/Occult/Horror

[Coyote Blues](#)

Karen F. Williams

Bold Strokes Books

[Jamis Bachman, Ghost Hunter](#)

Jen Jensen

Bold Strokes Books

[White Horse Point](#)

Austin & Andrews

Bold Strokes Books

[Gillette Park](#)

Gerri Hill

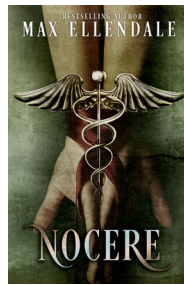
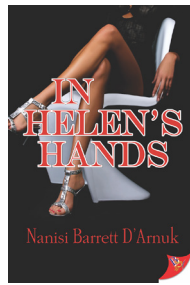
Bella Books

[The Other Side of Forestland](#)

[Lakes](#)

Carolyn Elizabeth

Bella Books



Erotic Novels

[In Helen's Hands](#)

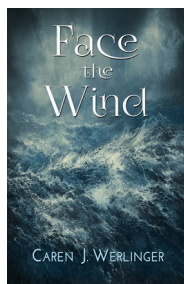
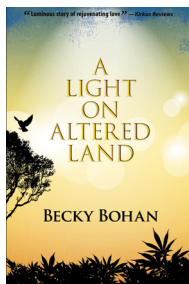
Nanisi Barrett D'Arnuik
Bold Strokes Books

[Nocere](#)

Max Ellendale
Self-Published

[Online](#)

Madeleine Taylor
Lise Gold Books



General Fiction

[A Light on Altered Land](#)

Becky Bohan
NanBec Books

[Face the Wind](#)

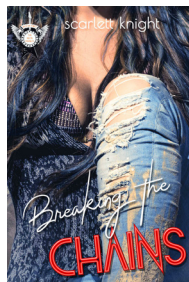
Caren J. Werlinger
Corgyn Publishing

[The Feasting Virgin](#)

Georgia Kolias
Bywater Books

[The Companion](#)

Kim Taylor Blakemore
Lake Union Publishing



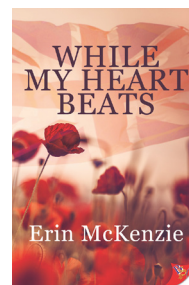
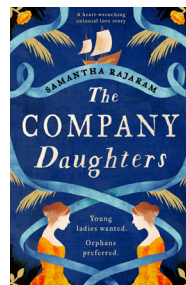
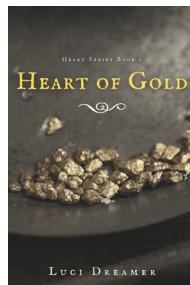
New Adult Fiction

[Breaking the Chains](#)

Scarlett Knight
Painted Hearts Publishing

[The Adventurers](#)

Bryce Oakley
Self-Published



Historical Fiction

[Heart of Gold](#)

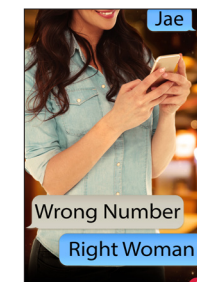
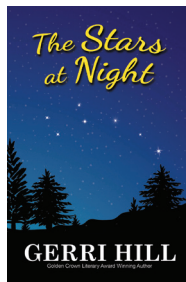
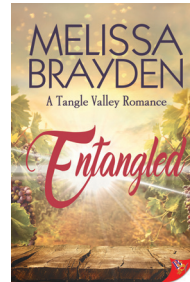
Luci Dreamer
Self-Published

[The Company Daughters](#)

Samantha Rajaram
Bookouture (Hachette)

[While My Heart Beats](#)

Erin McKenzie
Bold Strokes Books



Contemporary Romance: Long Novels

[Bet Against Me](#)

Fiona Riley
Bold Strokes Books

[Entangled](#)

Melissa Brayden
Bold Strokes Books

[Finding Jessica Lambert](#)

Clare Ashton
Self-Published

[Just One Reason](#)

Jaime Clevenger
Bella Books

[Reaping the Benefits](#)

E.J. Noyes
Bella Books

[Spindrift](#)

Anna Burke
Bywater Books

[The Found Jar](#)

Jaycie Morrison
Bold Strokes Books

[The Stars at Night](#)

Gerri Hill
Bella Books

[Then & Now](#)

Monica McCallan
Self-Published

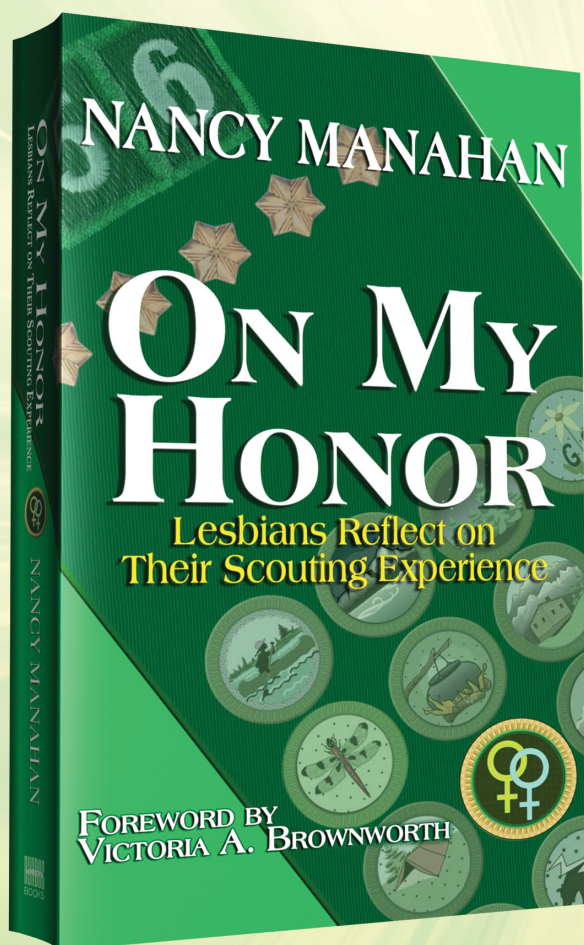
[Wrong Number, Right Woman](#)

Jae
Ylva Publishing

Lesbians, Lightning, and Bears...oh my! On My Honor

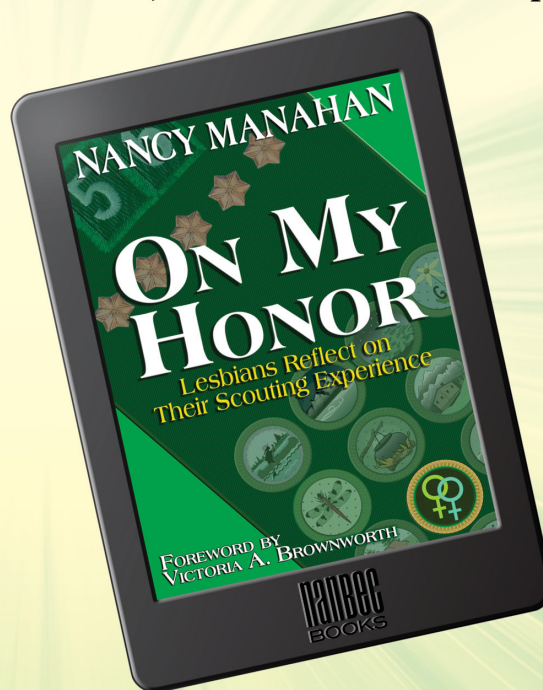
Lesbians Reflect on Their Scouting Experience

Nancy Manahan and Rosemary Keefe Curb shattered centuries of silence with their international bestseller, *Lesbian Nuns: Breaking Silence*. Now, in this re-released classic, Manahan explores another taboo topic through hilarious, heartbreaking, and inspiring stories by lesbian Girl Scouts from the US and abroad.



"These stories of strong, independent women reveal nuggets of the history of how Girl Scouts shaped lesbians' lives and how lesbians shaped Girl Scouts."

**Jill Cruse, Girl Scout Camp Director;
Olivia Travel, Vice President of Guest Experience**

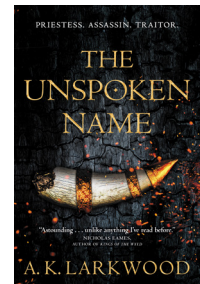
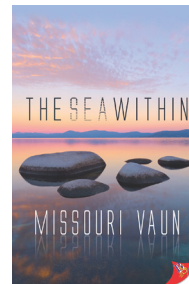
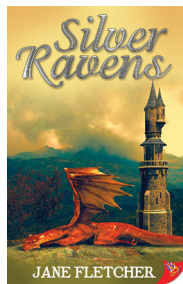
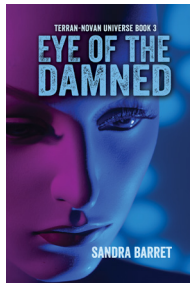


www.nanbec.com **nanbec BOOKS**

"Once again [Manahan] has taken on the examination of lesbian experience within a community of women that is as American as apple pie (or Girl Scout cookies). As she touched on our spiritual center in Lesbian Nuns: Breaking Silence, so she touches on our cultural center in this book."

Victoria A. Brownworth, Pulitzer Prize-nominated journalist and author

**Available from
Amazon.com and Bella Books**



Science Fiction/Fantasy

[Eye of the Damned](#)

Sandra Barret

Bedazzled Ink Publishing

[Lady of Stone](#)

Barbara Ann Wright

Bold Strokes Books

[Silver Ravens](#)

Jane Fletcher

Bold Strokes Books

[The Lost Temple of Psiere](#)

K. Aten

Flashpoint Publications

[The Sea Within](#)

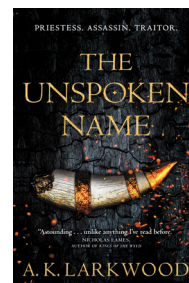
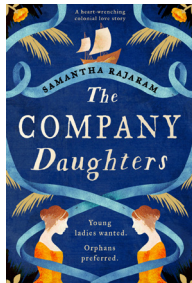
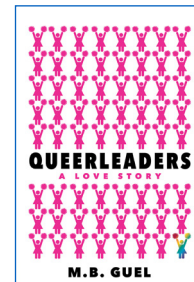
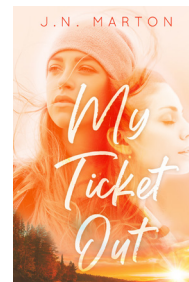
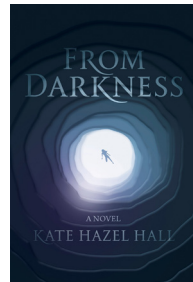
Missouri Vaun

Bold Strokes Books

[The Unspoken Name](#)

A. K. Larkwood

Tor Books



Debut Novel

[Aurora](#)

Emma L. McGeown

Bold Strokes Books

[From Darkness](#)

Kate Hazel Hall

Duet Books

[Must Love Silence](#)

Lucy Bexley

Self-Published

[My Ticket Out](#)

J.N. Marton

Self-Published

[Queerleaders](#)

M.B. Guel

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[The Company Daughters](#)

Samantha Rajaram

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[The Feasting Virgin](#)

Georgia Kolas

Bywater Books

[The Love Factor](#)

Quinn Ivins

Ylva Publishing

[The Unspoken Name](#)

A. K. Larkwood

Tor Books

[The Year Shakespeare](#)

Ruined My Life

Dani Jansen

Second Story Press

LOST SISTERS



Marti Babbitt



Ivy Bottini



Madeline Davis



Alix Dobkin



Joan Drury

Marti Babbitt

April 4, 1946 – March 21, 2021

Marti Babbitt was a long-standing GCLS member. An avid reader of WLW novels, Marti always had an eye for continuity or its lack. That trait served her well when she began proofing audiobooks for Bold Strokes Books about six years ago. Later, she evaluated narrator voices, determining if the voice was a good match for the content. She also reviewed covers. She enjoyed her work immensely and was proud to be a part of the Bold Strokes Books production team. She loved meeting and communicating with the authors. She completed her last assignment in November of 2020. She loved attending GCLS events and regularly participated in the Dallas Women With Pride book club.

In June of 2020, after a fall resulting in broken ribs, Marti was diagnosed with Stage IV lung cancer that had metastasized to her brain and elsewhere. Nine months later, she died peacefully at home, surrounded by her loved ones.

Source: Linda Parks, Marti's wife and GCLS Member

Ivy Bottini

August 15, 1926 – February 25, 2021

Ivy Bottini was a founder of the first chapter of the National Organization for Women (NOW) formed in 1966 as well as designing their national logo. As she fought for women's rights in New York City, she conceived and led the takeover of the Statue of Liberty in 1970 when Ivy's New York Chapter of NOW, hung a large banner over the top of Statue's pedestal which read, "Women of the Word Unite." In 1970 she was forced out of NOW due to her desire for equality and inclusion of lesbians in the struggle for women's

rights. She fought to get funding and services for the sick and dying during the AIDS epidemic. She founded the first AIDS organization in Los Angeles, AIDS Network LA, which served as a clearing house for early disease information and in 1983 she co-founded AIDS Project L.A. Ivy originally conceived the idea of providing affordable housing for Gay & Lesbian Seniors. Many years of hard work culminated with the founding of the non-profit Gay & Lesbian Elder Housing, Inc. in 1993.

[Source: Ten More Good Years](#)

Madeline Davis

July 7, 1940 – April 28, 2021

A longtime activist for gay rights, she blazed a trail for the understanding and acceptance of the LGBTQ community as a teacher, stage performer, author and historian.

She was a founding member and president of the first gay liberation organization in Western New York, the Mattachine Society of the Niagara Frontier.

The following year...she became the first openly gay delegate to a major political party convention and advocated for a gay rights plank in the platform. She taught the first course on lesbianism in the nation at the University at Buffalo.

She and UB professor Dr. Elizabeth L. Kennedy researched and authored a landmark account of the lives of gay working women in Buffalo, *Boots of Leather, Slippers of Gold: The History of a Lesbian Community*.

Published in 1994, "Boots of Leather" received the Lambda Literary Award, the Ruth Benedict Award for urban anthropology and the Jessie Bernard Award from the American Sociological Association.

[Source: The Buffalo News](#)

Alix Dobkin

August 16, 1940 – May 19, 2021

Our community lost a beloved lesbian warrior and radical wordsmith on May 19, 2021, when folksinger and activist-author Alix Dobkin died at age 80 from a brain aneurysm and stroke. Surrounded by loved ones during final days in her Woodstock, New York home, Alix drew an outpouring of memories, tributes, and lengthy letters of gratitude. Her 1973 album *Lavender Jane Loves Women*, the first fully lesbian-themed LP in history, helped millions of women come out into open and outspoken lesbian identity, and as the "head lesbian" (a designation she accepted proudly), Alix delighted in performing original songs with lively and political lyrics emphasizing the word LESBIAN as much as possible. Her concerts addressed male violence, global lesbian community, class issues, Jewish women's history, and language, with songs such as "Amazon ABC" and "Lesbian Codes." Out and unapologetic, Alix broke the mold, touring from the mid-1970s well into the 21st century.

Source: Bonnie J. Morris

Joan Drury

February 2, 1945 – November 9, 2020

Joan worked for the Loft in Minneapolis for many years. She owned, was the publisher and chief editor of a feminist publishing company, Spinsters Ink, in Minnesota for eight years. During the period, the company published about 40 books, 26 of which earned awards. She created and ran, with her friend Marilyn Crawford, a women's foundation, Harmony Women's Fund, which funded over 100 women's non-profit organizations in the state of Minnesota and created the National Lesbian Writers Awards which aided lesbian

LOST SISTERS



Kay (Tobin) Lahusen



Virginia Mollenkott



Deb Price



Joan Schenkar

writers financially to focus on their writing.

In 2002, she bought a small building on the shoreline of Lake Superior in Grand Marais and created and developed Drury Lane Books which has thrived into the present day with a devoted and loyal following of customers.

Over the course of her life, Joan also wrote six books of her own, four of which were published and earned a total of 11 awards.

[Source: Drury Lane Books](#)

Kay (Tobin) Lahusen

January 5, 1930 – May 26, 2021

With her partner, the late activist Barbara Gittings, Lahusen advocated for gay civil rights years before the 1969 Stonewall uprising in New York. She captured widely published images of some of the nation's first protests.

Lahusen photographed a series of gay rights demonstrations held in front of Philadelphia's Independence Hall each July 4 from 1965 to 1969 — and was a marcher herself....She documented gay rights protests at the White House and the Pentagon.

Lahusen's life partner, Gittings, was one of the nation's most prominent lesbian activists....

They had met in 1961 at a picnic held by Daughters of Bilitis. Lahusen was arts editor and shot groundbreaking cover photos of gay women for the group's national publication, *The Ladder*.

Under the pseudonym Kay Tobin, she co-wrote a 1972 book, "The Gay Crusaders," which profiled the movement's early leaders.

[Source: The Washington Post](#)

Dr. Virginia Mollenkott

January 28, 1932 - September 25, 2020

Dr. Virginia Ramey Mollenkott, a Christian feminist, is the author of thirteen books, including the groundbreaking work, *Is The Homosexual My Neighbor? A Positive Christian View*. Dr. Mollenkott devoted her life to teaching at various colleges and lecturing around the world. She found a new understanding of the Bible, which allowed her to reconcile feminism and her lesbian identity with Biblical teachings.

Dr. Mollenkott was a guest lecturer at hundreds of universities, church conferences, and seminaries. She served as a board member for numerous organizations and was a founding member of the GLBT-inclusive Evangelical and Ecumenical Women's Caucus. In 2002, she won the Lambda Literary Award for *Omnigender: A TransReligious Approach*.

[Source: The New York Times](#)

[Source: LGBTQ Religious Archives](#)

Deb Price

February 27, 1958 – November 20, 2020

Deb Price rose to notoriety in her debut column for the *Detroit News* when she asked the question, "America, how do I introduce Joyce?" Joyce was Joyce Murdoch, Price's partner for the previous six years.

Price authored the first column of its kind in mainstream media, writing about gay life and its nuances. She blew the closet door open at a time when gay journalists were struggling to be out and successful. She told the *Washington Post*, "It's an asset for a newspaper to have openly gay journalists in the same way that having African Americans or Hispanics or people with disabilities is an asset."

[Source: The Washington Post](#)

[Source: The New York Times](#)

Joan Schenkar

August 15, 1942 – May 5, 2021

Joan Schenkar started her career as a playwright but switched to biography, producing an especially well-regarded take on a complex literary figure in 2009 with her book *The Talented Miss Highsmith: The Secret Life and Serious Art of Patricia Highsmith*.

Ms. Schenkar began writing plays, experimental works built on absurdity and out-there humor. She used the phrase "a Comedy of Menace" as a subtitle for many of them.

Signs of Life involved an imagined P.T. Barnum attraction named Elephant Woman; a gynecologist partial to an instrument called the uterine guillotine; and the author Henry James.

The plays were produced in theaters in the United States and beyond, but the critical reception was sometimes harsh. That was one of the things that drove Ms. Schenkar to try biography.

[Source: The New York Times](#)

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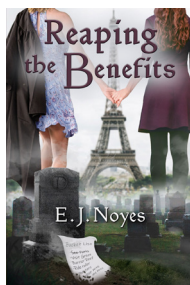
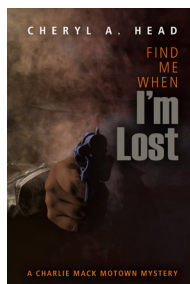
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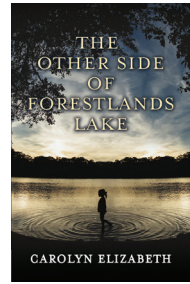
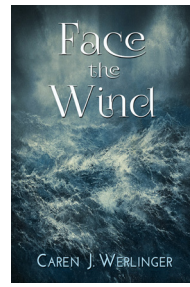
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