central avenue PUBLISHING

CATALOG

SELECT TITLES 2024-2026

AVAILABLE FROM SIMON & SCHUSTER

ABOUT CENTRAL AVENUE

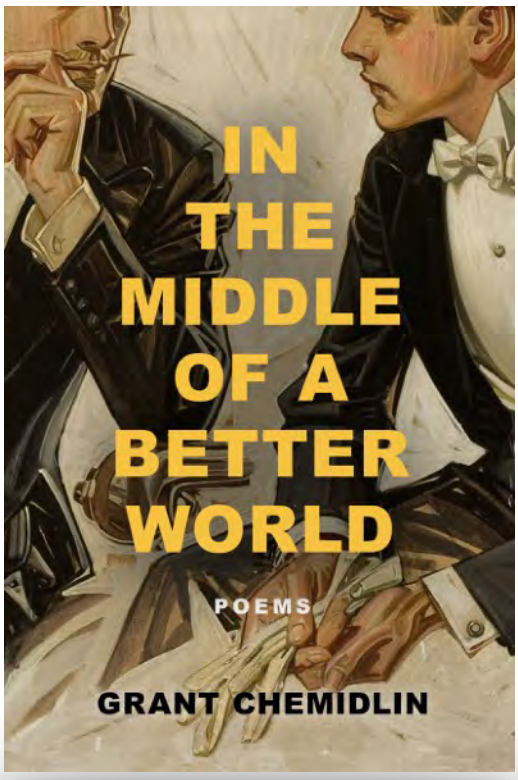
Central Avenue Publishing is a home for fiction and poetry about us at our worst - and best.

We are proud to have had many of our titles on bestseller lists, go viral, win respected awards, endorsed by literary heroes and celebrities, and enjoyed by readers all over the world.

Contact: Michelle Halket, michelle@centralavenuepublishing.com
+1 604 765 8194
5062 C 48th Avenue, Delta BC V4K 1V8 CANADA
Distributed worldwide by Simon & Schuster

POETRY

Bestselling authors, viral on socials & award-winning poets



IN THE MIDDLE OF A BETTER WORLD: Poems

What do we risk by living our most authentic lives?

In the Middle of a Better World is a queer guide to love and identity, a collection both formally inventive and infused with a bright, shimmering imagination. The speaker of these poems isn't afraid to dream, to be seen, to speak "the tender language."

Part elegy, part battle cry, this astonishing new collection by poet Grant Chemidlin is unabashedly joyous in its exploration of desire, human connection, and community—those we're born into and those we build ourselves.

GRANT CHEMIDLIN

Grant Chemidlin is the author of *What We Lost in the Swamp* (Central Avenue Poetry, 2023), a finalist for the Lambda Literary Award for Gay Poetry. His poems can be found in *The Los Angeles Review, Palette Poetry, The Florida Review, Quarterly West,* and the *Academy of American Poets*, among other publications. He lives in Los Angeles with his husband and cat.

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BOOK SPECS

February 3, 2026

978-1-77168-436-1 Trade Paper $18.00

5.25 X 8 IN 160pp

POETRY

Distributed by Simon & Schuster

World Rights: Murray Weiss, Catalyst Lit Mgmt.

murray@catalystlit.com

Publicity: Michelle Halket

michelle@centralavenuepublishing.com

WHY TO BUY

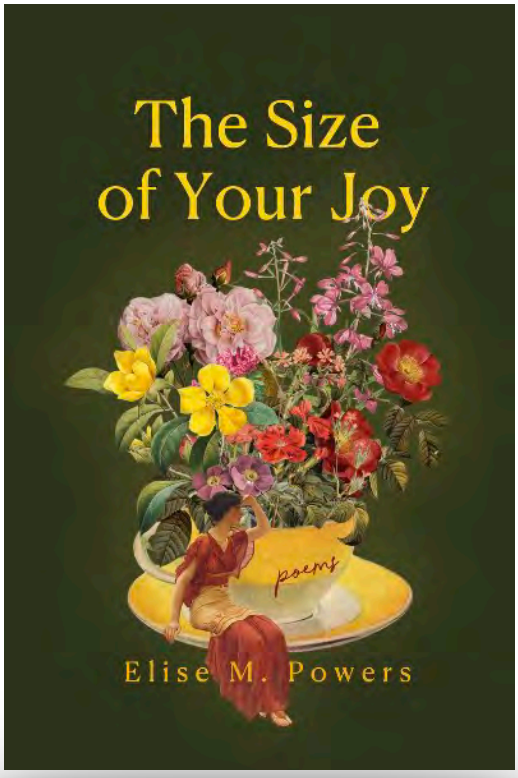
A luminous, defiant celebration of queer love, identity, and chosen connection.

- An poet with a sizeable and a track record of viral posts
- Instagram: 45.4K followers
- TikTok: 62.7K followers and 2.8M likes
- Follows the viral and bestselling *What We Lost in the Swamp*, a Lambda Literary Award finalist.
- Timely and resonant themes of queer identity, community, and resilience.
- For lovers of Danez Smith, Richard Siken, Ocean Vuong, Charif Shanahan
- 50,000 first printing

Marketing Includes:

- Presence at Winter Institute, Frankfurt and regional bookseller shows
- Advertising in *Foreword Reviews; Shelf Awareness; Poets.org*
- NetGalley and Edelweiss ARC campaigns
- Trade review campaigns
- Goodreads giveaways
- Social media & newsletter outreach
- Pre-order campaign
- Award submissions

Compare to: *Pig; Hard Drive; Trace Evidence; Gay Heaven*



THE SIZE OF YOUR JOY

For every woman who's ever held joy and sorrow in the same breath —this debut is a tender, powerful reminder that you are not alone.

Powers reflects on how ideas of beauty, desire, and shame are quietly passed from one generation to the next, and what it takes to break those cycles. She examines the hunger—for belonging, autonomy, and joy—that women are taught to suppress, while imagining a path forward defined by liberation and self-acceptance.

A celebration of reclamation, this book asks how we carry sorrow and joy, loss and love, as dual forces that shape the stories we inherit and the lives we choose to create. This collection invites readers to embrace joy not as the absence of struggle, but as an act of defiance and hope.

ELISE M. POWERS

Raised across the United States, from Alaska's snowy peaks to Florida's sandy shores, Elise Powers' work is shaped by a lifelong search for home and self. She lives in Seattle with her husband and daughter, where she spends her days writing, collecting sea glass along rocky Pacific Northwest beaches, and savoring life's tender joys.

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BOOK SPECS

April 21, 2026

978-1-77168-440-8 Trade Paper $18.00

5.25 X 8 IN 160pp

POETRY

Distributed by Simon & Schuster

World Rights: Murray Weiss, Catalyst Lit Mgmt.

murray@catalystlit.com

Publicity: Michelle Halket

michelle@centralavenuepublishing.com

WHY TO BUY

A resonant debut by a poet with strong social media following, this is an exploration of the silent rules women inherit.

- From an established press with a track record of bestselling poetry titles
- An up-and-coming poet with a fast growing and highly engaged following
- Instagram followers: 12.3K (April 2025)
- 50,000 first printing

Marketing Includes:

- Presence at Winter Institute, Frankfurt and regional bookseller shows
- Advertising in *Foreword Reviews; Shelf Awareness; Poets.org*
- NetGalley and Edelweiss ARC campaigns
- Trade review campaigns
- Goodreads giveaways
- Social media & newsletter outreach
- Pre-order campaign
- Award submissions

Compare to: ***The Art of Falling in Love Again; Eclipse; Self Portrait; Glass Hearts and Broken Promises; Letters I Will Never Send***

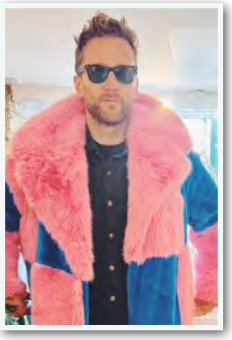
THE NEVER WAS

A poetic celebration embracing our unfinished, imperfect, and authentic selves.

Known for his typewritten poetry and heartfelt reflections, Gregson delves deeper than ever before, embracing vulnerability and authenticity. The title is inspired by a series of poetry fragments—bits and pieces that never found their way into complete poems.

These raw, unpolished pieces appear alongside brand-new poems, creating a mosaic of thoughts and emotions that celebrate the power of the unfinished and the unrefined. This collection is an invitation for readers to embrace their own complexities, to find beauty in the pieces of themselves they once deemed unworthy, and to remember that every "never was" holds the potential to become something extraordinary.

TYLER KNOTT GREGSON



Tyler Knott Gregson is the celebrated author of six books, including the national bestseller *Chasers of the Light.* Gregson's poetry has been featured in *The New York Times, The Wall Street Journal, NPR*, and he has collaborated with brands like Nordstrom, Spotify, and Ralph Lauren.

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BOOK SPECS

September 23, 2025

978-1-77168-421-7 • Trade Paper • $23.00

POE021000 - Poetry

6 X 8.25 IN 160pp

Distributed by Simon & Schuster

World Rights: Murray Weiss, Catalyst Lit Mgmt.

PR Contact: Michelle Halket

michelle@centralavenuepublishing.com

FEATURES

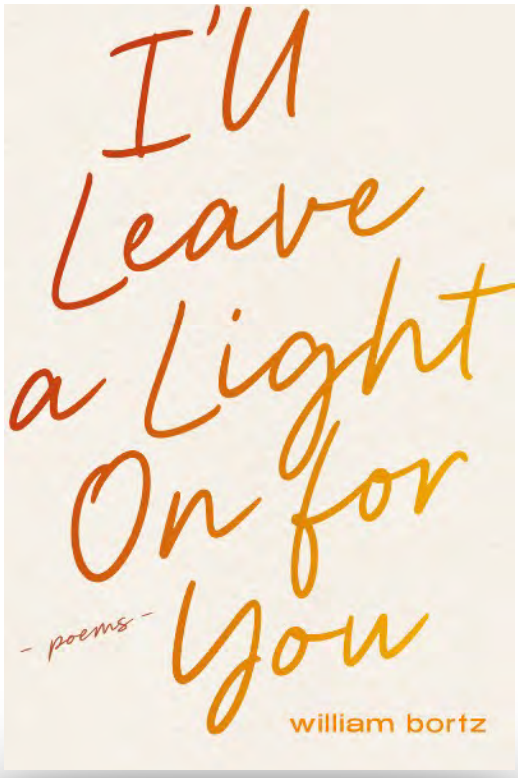
***The Never Was* speaks to the neurodivergent community—perfect for engaging Tyler's large and loyal fanbase, attracting new readers, and tapping into mental health awareness.**

- From an established press with a track record of bestselling poetry titles
- A proven poet with a strong backlist and previous media coverage
- Previous books sold >300,000 copies
- Author appeared in *NYT, NPR, Washington Post* among many others
- Combined social media followers: 800K
- Readings and spoken word posts get thousands of views, comments, and likes
- Substack newsletter >12,000 subscribers
- 50,000 first printing

Marketing Includes:

- Presence at Winter Institute and regional bookseller shows
- Advertising in *Foreword Reviews; Shelf Awareness; Poets.org*
- NetGalley and Edelweiss ARC campaigns
- Social media & newsletter outreach
- Pre-order campaign

Compare to: *Remember Love; LVOE; And Yet; Healing is a Gift; After the Rain; From Sand to Stars*



I'LL LEAVE A LIGHT ON FOR YOU

A meditation on what it means to hold on—to a moment, to a person, to a memory—while knowing that we are continuously changing.

In *I'll Leave a Light On for You,* William Bortz weaves a haunting yet hopeful collection of poems that explore the body's relationship with joy and grief. From breakage, "This body is meant to break and from its shell light will pour out"—to coming back together—"two hands from two bodies placed / on top of one another creates a home", Bortz captures the lingering trauma, but also the persistence of hope and resiliency.

WILLIAM BORTZ

William Bortz is a poet from the Midwest. He is the author of Many Small Hungerings and The Grief We're Given. You can find his work published online in Turning Leaf Journal, Button Poetry, Okay Donkey, MudRoom, and others. William is a music enthusiast, basketball lover, and grateful father and husband.

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BOOK SPECS

August 4, 2026

978-1-77168-457-6 Trade Paper $18.00

5.25 X 8 IN 144pp

POETRY

Distributed by Simon & Schuster

World Rights: Murray Weiss, Catalyst Lit Mgmt.

murray@catalystlit.com

Publicity: Michelle Halket

michelle@centralavenuepublishing.com

WHY TO BUY

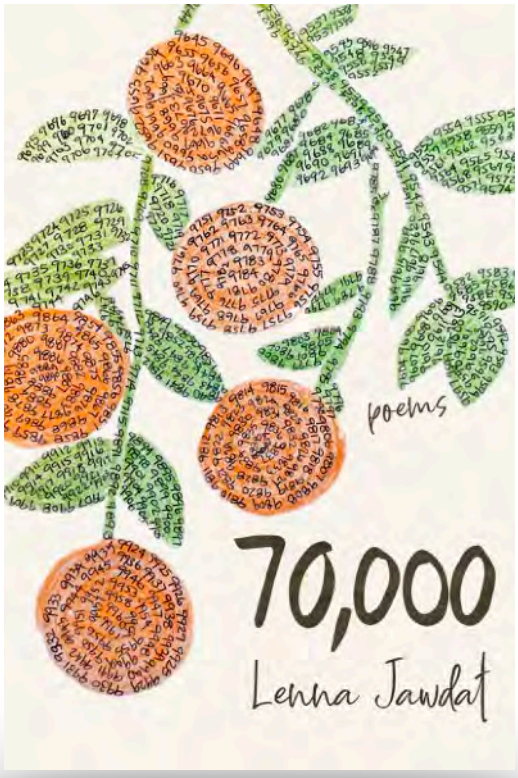
With two widely read and celebrated collections, William Bortz—featured in leading poetry outlets—returns with a deeply human and lyrical book.

- A widely published poet whose work has appeared in dozens of literary journals, bookclubs and university courses
- Strong social media following
- Combined Instagram & TikTok: ~100K
- 15,000 first printing

Marketing Includes:

- Presence at Frankfurt, Winter Institute and regional bookseller shows
- Advertising in Foreword Reviews; Shelf Awareness; Poets.org
- NetGalley and Edelweiss ARC campaigns
- Trade review campaigns
- Tour with other local poets spanning Iowa, North Dakota, Minnesota, Missouri
- Social media, podcast & newsletter outreach - PR packages to be sent to dozens of influential creators
- Pre-order campaign via Des Moines independent bookseller (TBD)

Compare to: *A Fortune for Your Disaster; Modern Poetry; Raft; Small Ghost; Survival Takes a Wild Imagination; Lovers Exes Soulmates*



70,000: Poems

A powerful act of remembrance and resistance, *70,000* transforms cultural erasure into a living, breathing archive.

70,000 is a visceral and inventive collection of poetry rooted in the theft of 70,000 books from Palestinian homes and private libraries by Zionist forces before and during the Nakba of 1948. Of those books, most have vanished; just 6,000 remain, locked in the Israeli National Archives —unreachable by Palestinians.

In response to this loss of knowledge and memory, Jawdat began handwriting the numbers one to 70,000, willing herself to think of every number as a book. The book unfolds in three interwoven threads: the numbers themselves, reflections on the writing process, and a personal and familial poetic narrative.

LENNA JAWDAT

Lenna Jawdat is a poet, writer, and psychotherapist of Palestinian and Iraqi descent. Her writing has appeared in *Poet Lore, The Margins, Passenger's Journal, Rogue Agent,* and *Heaven Looks Like Us.* She was a Best of the Net nominee, a Sundress Academy for the Arts summer resident. She is also co-organizer of the poetry vigil series In Water and Light. She lives in DC with her partner and two cats.

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BOOK SPECS

July 7, 2026

978-1-77168-454-5 Trade Paper $20.00

6 X 8.25 IN 190pp

POETRY

Distributed by Simon & Schuster

World Rights: Murray Weiss, Catalyst Lit Mgmt.

murray@catalystlit.com

Publicity: Michelle Halket

michelle@centralavenuepublishing.com

WHY TO BUY

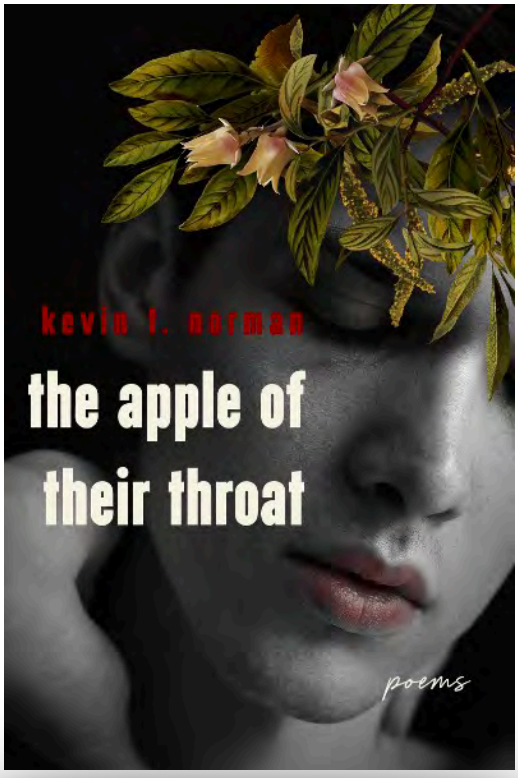
An original debut blending poetry, personal narrative, and archival material to explore cultural loss, memory, and resilience.

- Timely exploration of Palestinian erasure, resonating with current global discourse.
- Blends poetry, prose, and illustration.
- By a widely connected poet with strong ties to literary and activist circles.
- Ideal for book clubs, classrooms, and collections focused on justice and cultural resilience.

Marketing Includes:

- Presence at Winter Institute and regional bookseller shows
- Advertising in Foreword Reviews; Shelf Awareness; Poets.org
- NetGalley and Edelweiss ARC campaigns
- Trade review campaigns
- Goodreads giveaways
- Social media & newsletter outreach
- Pre-order campaign via Washington DC independent bookseller (TBD)
- Award submissions

Compare to: *Dear God. Dear Bones. Dear Yellow; The Moon That Turns You Back; A Theory of Birds; Something About Living; Birthright*



THE APPLE OF THEIR THROAT

A love story and testament to the quiet, defiant resilience it takes to build a life when the world says you don't belong.

Told in three powerful movements—Fertilization, Fragmentation, and Ripening—this memoir-in-verse begins with the breathless urgency of early desire and the ache of wanting to be chosen: by God, by family, by love. It weaves through grief, guilt, and rupture, arriving at a reclamation of self that is healed, scarred, and still tender. With language that is both accessible and precise, these poems capture the ache of longing, the quiet fractures of faith, and the fragile bloom of first love. This is a collection that interrogates religion, asking what holiness looks like for those cast out and it pulses with honesty, restraint, and the kind of intimacy that feels like being handed a secret.

KEVIN T. NORMAN

Kevin T. Norman is a queer writer and content creator based in Los Angeles, California. He is the founder of Violetear Books, an imprint under Bindery devoted to publishing bold, marginalized voices. Kevin's poetry and creative vision have led to partnerships with Spotify, Amazon, Wattpad, and more. In 2022, he was honored as a TikTok LGBTQ+ Trailblazer for his advocacy in the digital space.

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BOOK SPECS

May 26, 2026

978-1-77168-461-3 Trade Paper $18.00

5.25 X 8 IN 144pp

POETRY

Distributed by Simon & Schuster

World Rights: Murray Weiss, Catalyst Lit Mgmt.

murray@catalystlit.com

Publicity: Michelle Halket

michelle@centralavenuepublishing.com

WHY TO BUY

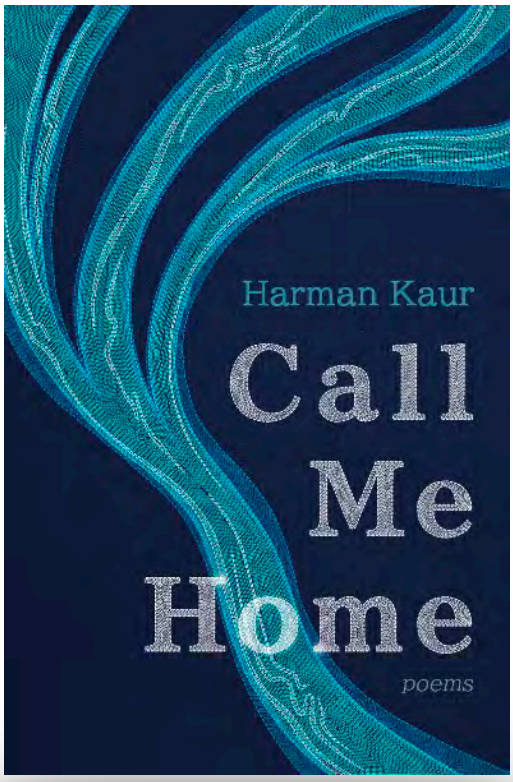
An LGBTQ+ BookTok trailblazer with major brand partnerships, and media features from Rolling Stone to The Kelly Clarkson Show — this debut poetry collection comes with a built-in audience and proven reach.

- From an established press with a track record of bestselling poetry titles
- A poet with a sizeable audience
- Instagram: 146K followers
- TikTok: 270K followers - 16.3M likes
- Timely and resonant themes of queer identity, community, and resilience.

Marketing Includes:

- Presence at Frankfurt, Winter Institute and regional bookseller shows
- Advertising in Foreword Reviews; Shelf Awareness; Poets.org
- NetGalley and Edelweiss ARC campaigns
- Trade review campaigns
- Creator outreach and PR packages
- Social media & newsletter outreach
- Pre-order campaign via Los Angeles independent bookseller (TBD)

Compare to: *What We Lost in the Swamp; Her, Him & I; mixed feelings; In the Middle of a Better World; The Starlight She Becomes*



LEAD TITLE

CALL ME HOME

A powerful exploration of the diverse manifestations of home, extending beyond its mere physicality, through topics such as womanhood, spirituality, and immigration.

Explore the multifaceted concept of home through Kaur's evocative poetry in *Call Me Home*. Journey beyond its physical confines to discover its emotional and psychological depths, touching on themes like immigration, womanhood, and spirituality. Encounter narratives of loss, rediscovery, and healing that resonate with the human experience. With rich language and imagery, this collection offers fresh perspectives, inviting readers to reconsider their understanding of what it means to feel at home.

HARMAN KAUR

Harman Kaur, a Panjabi Sikh poet and writer born and raised in British Columbia, Canada, now calls the Bay Area, California, home. Through powerful words, she fearlessly explores the intricate layers of her identity, exemplified in her collections, *Phulkari* and *Call Me Home*.

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BOOK SPECS

February 18, 2025

978-1-77168-399-9 • Trade Paper • $17.00

POE021000 - Poetry

5.25 X 8 IN 128pp

World Rights

Distributed to the trade by Simon & Schuster

PR Contact: Michelle Halket

michelle@centralavenuepublishing.com

Rights: Murray Weiss, Catalyst Literary Mgmt.

FEATURES

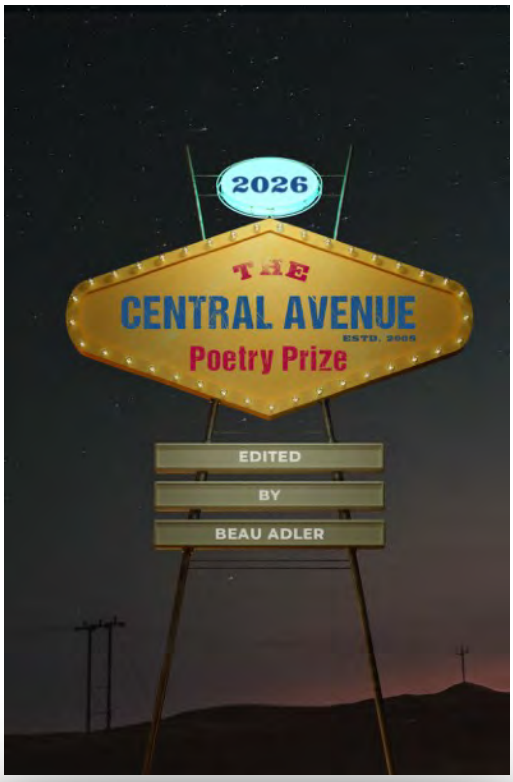
From a popular poet on TikTok comes an exploration of the diverse manifestations of "home."

- From an established press of bestselling modern poetry.
- TikTok following 46,500
- The universal concept of home is appealing to diverse audience while the healing narrative lends a lightness sought by younger readers.
- Sponsored by several South Asian groups to bring her work to their communities.
- Sold 10,000 units of her self published book, *Phulkari*
- Speaking engagements booked at prestigious universities.
- First printing: 50,000

Marketing includes:

- Social media strategy to capitalize on the author's current virality and popularity.
- Pre-order campaign
- Outreach to bloggers, podcasters, and local venues.
- Author tour to universities and private functions in US, UK, and Canada.
- NetGalley and Edelweiss campaigns
- Review campaigns to trade journals
- Timed for Poetry and AAPI Month

Compare to: *Sincerely; A Psalm for Us; Girl Made of Glass; The How; Prayers of My Youth; I Gave Myself the World; Bone*



CENTRAL AVENUE POETRY PRIZE 2026

Volume three of The Central Avenue Poetry Prize showcases a dynamic chorus of voices from around the world—each one offering a unique window into the human condition. This anthology brims with feeling: loss and yearning, joy and curiosity, the quiet beauty of everyday existence. Every poem is a glimpse into a life, a moment, a truth.

From sharp observations to tender recollections, from lyrical portraits to bold declarations, this collection is a celebration of poetry's enduring power. It reminds us that writing is not just an art, but a way of being—a means to uncover ourselves and forge deeper bonds with others.

BEAU ADLER

Working beside the sea in the Pacific Northwest, Beau Adler has worn many different hats, but his fervent passion for literature led him to the publishing world—where he intends on staying. When he isn't reading and writing emails, Beau is jogging, hiking with his dog, or binge-watching sitcoms on Netflix. Beau is the editor of *The Central Avenue Poetry Prize.*

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BOOK SPECS

March 31, 2026

978-1-77168-438-5 • Trade Paper • $18.00

POE021000 - Poetry

5.5 X 8.5 IN 96pp

World Rights

Distributed to the trade by Simon & Schuster

PR Contact: Michelle Halket

michelle@centralavenuepublishing.com

Rights: Murray Weiss, Catalyst Literary Mgmt.

FEATURES

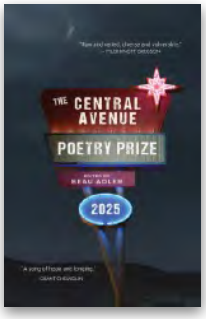
From a publisher with a successful track record of bestselling poetry

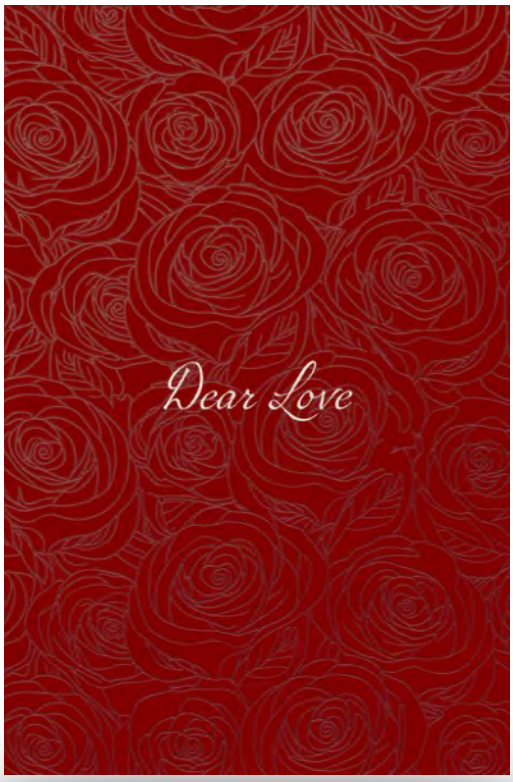
- Successful previous volumes widely shared
- Writers with highly engaged followings
- Significant cash prizes
- First printing: 10,000

Marketing includes:

- Social media campaign
- NetGalley and Edelweiss campaigns
- Review campaigns to trade journals
- Advertising with Foreword Reviews, Poets.org, P&W
- Timed for Poetry Month

Compare to: *Poetry of Grief, Gratitude, and Reverence; That Still Moment; The Wonder of Small Things; The Central Avenue Poetry Prize 2025; Best American Poetry*





DEAR LOVE

This is an intimate collection of fifty-two heartfelt letters from around the world, capturing the essence of romance.

Dear Love is a collection of heartfelt love letters written by request from people from across the globe. Each letter is an answered call between lovers, self, and even pets. Sometimes erotic, sometimes funny, always sincere, *Dear Love* expresses connection through one of the most meaningful forms of romance: a letter.

GRANT GOSCH

Grant Gosch is a writer and creative director based in the Pacific Northwest. He provides creative direction for global brands such as Nike and Intel while sharing his personal creative work through his books and storytelling performances. His latest book, *Dear Love*, shares the beauty of being seen through the words of a love letter.

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BOOK SPECS

January 7, 2025

978-1-77168-392-0 • Trade Paper • $18.00

POE021000 - Poetry/Love

6 X 8.25 IN 128pp

World Rights

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PR Contact: Michelle Halket

michelle@centralavenuepublishing.com

Rights: Murray Weiss, Catalyst Literary Mgmt.

FEATURES

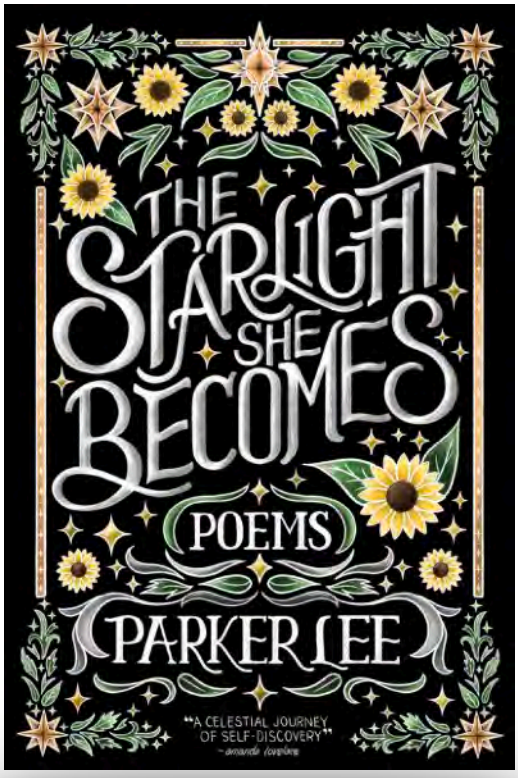
From a popular creator comes an intimate collection of heartfelt letters.

- From an established press of bestselling modern poetry.
- An immersive, inclusive & sensual escape
- Timed for Valentine's Day & ideal for Gift
- Performance artist and writer
- Instagram followers: 40.6K (Jul 2024)

Marketing Includes:

- Merchandise
- *Sapphire Letters* Instagram
- Social media with pre-order campaigns
- Email marketing (4K current subscribers)
- Edelweiss and NetGalley ARC postings
- Bookstore tour with readings - PNW
- Partnerships with similar authors/ creators

Compare to: *Love by Night; LVOE; The Letters I Will Never Send: I Wrote a Book About You;* TV Shows like *Modern Love*



THE STARLIGHT SHE BECOMES

Experience a powerful journey of transformation and self-love, told through the evocative words of a trans woman reclaiming her identity and joy.

Trans poet Parker Lee returns with an all new collection of poetry, prose, and aphorisms. This is a journey from hopelessness through to self-discovery, self-love, and romantic love presented in three sections: moonrise, sunrise, and stardust.

With raw vulnerability and unwavering strength, *The Starlight She Becomes* is a testament to the resilience of the human spirit and the beauty found in embracing one's true self.

PARKER LEE

Parker Lee [she/her] is a trans woman poet and storyteller.. A midwestern transplant, Parker resides in a coastal New Jersey town alongside wife and poetess amanda lovelace (and their three cats), where she can almost always be found not writing when she should be, drinking way too much coffee, and waxing autumnal every single day of the year.

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BOOK SPECS

July 29, 2025

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5.25 X 8 IN 128pp

POETRY / LGTBQ+

Distributed by Simon & Schuster

World Rights: Murray Weiss, Catalyst Lit Mgmt.

murray@catalystlit.com

Publicity: Michelle Halket

michelle@centralavenuepublishing.com

WHY TO BUY

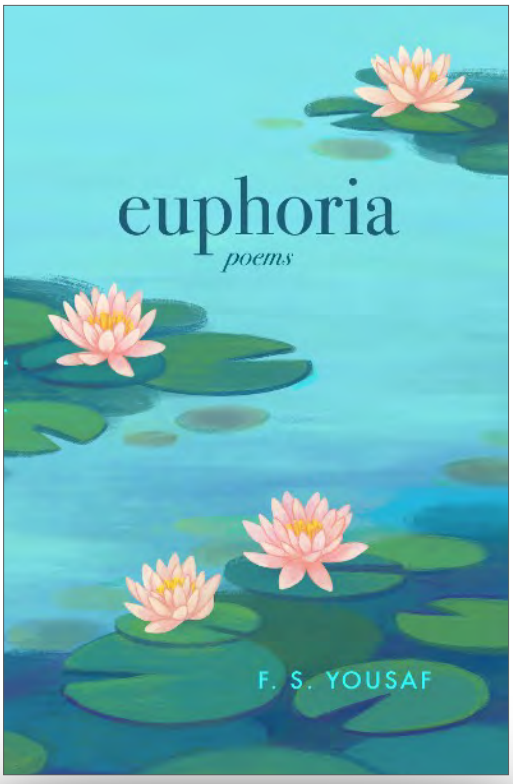
A unique and timely perspective on trans experiences for those seeking authentic, heartfelt poetry that speaks to resilience, identity, and love.

- From an established press with a track record of bestselling poetry titles
- A well-connected poet with a strong backlist
- Backlist sold >50,000 copies
- Instagram Followers: 11.9K (Aug 2024)
- 35,000 first printing

Marketing Includes:

- Brand presence at bookseller shows
- NetGalley and Edelweiss ARC campaigns
- Goodreads giveaways
- Social media outreach
- Pre-order campaign with gifts
- Collaboration with poetry community including wife, bestselling poet Amanda Lovelace

Compare to: *coffee days whiskey nights; Please Love Me At My Worst; What We Lost in the Swamp; The Surrender Theory*



EUPHORIA

"In the quiet moments, love speaks its loudest truths."

In *Euphoria*, bestselling poet F.S. Yousaf—author of *Sincerely* and *Serenity*—offers an expanded, intimate journey through the landscapes of love, faith, and the fragile beauty of fleeting moments. With a tender and profound voice, Yousaf's poems touch on life's most delicate experiences, tracing the quiet resilience that sustains us and the connections that give us strength.

Yousaf's work resonates as a gentle reminder of the ways we hold each other and find grace in the everyday. Euphoria is a companion for the heart, a softly lit path through love's highs and lows, and a celebration of the moments that shape us.

F.S. YOUSAF

F.S. Yousaf is a bestselling Pakistani-American poet, author, and photographer. He has four other poetry collections: Sincerely, Prayers of My Youth, Serenity, and Oaths. He is currently an MFA student at William Paterson University. He enjoys his free time with his wife, Yusra, and two cats, Yuki and Stormi.

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BOOK SPECS

September 30, 2025

978-1-77168-423-1 • Trade Paper • $16.99

POE021000 - Poetry

5.25 X 8 IN 160pp

Distributed by Simon & Schuster

World Rights: Murray Weiss, Catalyst Lit Mgmt.

PR Contact: Michelle Halket

michelle@centralavenuepublishing.com

FEATURES

Bestselling poet F.S. Yousaf brings an expanded *Euphoria* to shelves, answering the call for more of his soulful, Muslim-centered poetry.

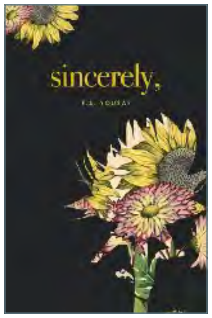
- From an established press with a track record of bestselling poetry titles
- Expanded version of a bestselling self published title >35K copies
- A massively popular poet on socials
- Backlist has sold ~115,000 copies
- TikTok: 619.4K followers; 36.6M likes
- 50,000 first printing

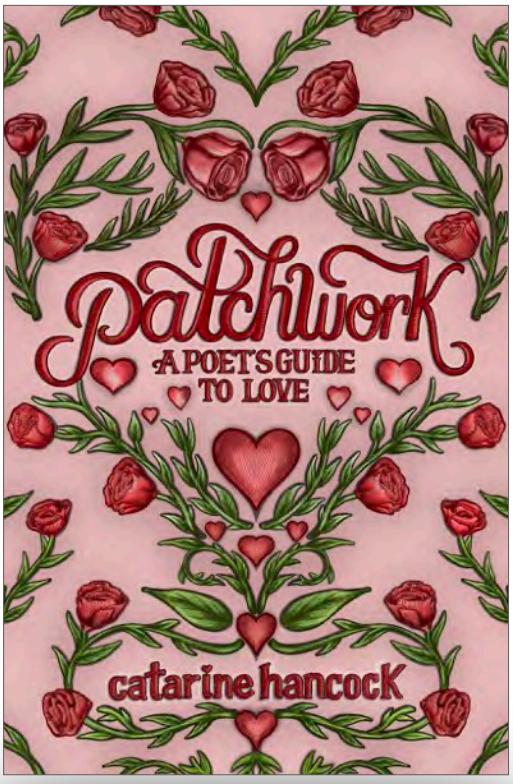
Marketing Includes:

- Presence at WI and regional shows
- Advertising in Foreword Reviews; Shelf Awareness; Poets.org
- NetGalley and Edelweiss campaigns
- Social media & newsletter outreach
- Pre-order campaign

Compare to: *Sincerely; Serenity; Dare to Let Go; Forest of Noise; Self Portrait; A Midnight Moon*

Also Available from Central Avenue





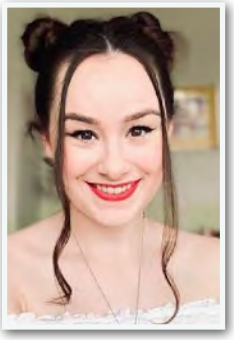
PATCHWORK: A POET'S GUIDE TO LOVE

"Love isn't a single story; it's a lifetime of rewrites."

Fall in love, break, and heal all over again in this stunning new poetry collection from Catarine Hancock, one of today's most beloved voices in modern poetry. In this deeply emotional journey, Hancock captures the shifting tides of love—from the thrill of new beginnings and the ache of heartbreak to the quiet strength that comes from finding yourself again.

Whether you're navigating heartbreak, rediscovering joy, or simply longing for words that understand your heart, this collection is here to remind you that love is a journey—and every step brings you closer to becoming whole.

CATARINE HANCOCK



Catarine Hancock, a 25-year-old poet, author, and opera singer from Lexington, KY, now living in Chicago, has built a significant online platform alongside her five poetry collections and fantasy romance novel. When she's not singing or writing, you can find her curled up with a book, browsing local bookstores, or adding quirky Goodwill finds to her already too-cluttered apartment.

central avenue PUBLISHING

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BOOK SPECS

November 4, 2025

978-1-77168-412-5 • Trade Paper • $17.00

POE021000 - Poetry

5.25 X 8 IN 192pp

Distributed by Simon & Schuster

World Rights: Murray Weiss, Catalyst Lit Mgmt.

PR Contact: Michelle Halket

michelle@centralavenuepublishing.com

FEATURES

From a bestselling poet with consistent sales, this collection is sure to meet the demand for modern, relatable poetry on love and self discovery and is ideal for Valentine's/ Galentine's placements.

- From an established press with a track record of bestselling poetry titles
- Bestselling poet with a loyal following
  - TikTok: 260.8K followers; 13.4M likes
  - Instagram: 40.7K followers
- Backlist sold >60K units
- Giftable, attractive format
- Cross-genre appeal by blending themes of romance and introspection
- 30,000 first printing

Marketing Includes:

- Presence at Winter Institute and regional bookseller shows
- Advertising in Foreword Reviews; Shelf Awareness; Poets.org
- NetGalley and Edelweiss ARC campaigns
- Goodreads giveaways
- Social media & newsletter outreach
- Pre-order campaign

Compare to: *Self Portrait; Save Me An Orange; Harmony; Shades of Lovers*

Also Available

HER, HIM & I

A poignant collection that tackles the complexities of heartache, queerness, and toxic masculinity.

Introspective, vulnerable, and tantalizing, this is a love letter to queerness — capturing the joy, grief, ecstasy, and hope that accompany it. The poems tackle the complexities of infatuation, heartache, sexual assault, and toxic masculinity. Across three acts, Weissmann offers readers an unfiltered view into his psyche through several romantic relationships. These poems magnify the reality of exploring emotional and physical intimacy with multiple genders, all while navigating the journey of self-love. *Her, Him & I* is a coming-of-age celebration of heartbreak and healing.

CHRISTIAN WEISSMANN

Christian Weissmann is a writer and actor from Chicago. He's appeared on shows such as *Saved By The Bell, Dear White People,* and *Girl Meets World*. His essays have appeared in the *Los Angeles Times, Byline* and the *Huffington Post*. He lives in Los Angeles with his extensive record collection.

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BOOK SPECS

June 11, 2024

978-1-77168-373-9 • Trade Paper • $16.99

POETRY - LGBT+

5.25 X 8 IN 144pp

World Rights

Distributed to the trade by Simon & Schuster

PR Contact: Michelle Halket

michelle@centralavenuepublishing.com

WHY TO BUY

- Popular and active Hollywood actor
- Social Media: 184K followers
- Published articles in *LA Times, HuffPost, Byline, The Trevor Project* and *The American Bar Association*
- LA Release party with 150 celebrity attendees
- Features currently pitched and/or confirmed for *Out Magazine, Gay Times, LA Times, HuffPost, Behind the Blinds, Cosmopolitan, Queerty, BODE, VogueUK*
- Events planned with Eli Gallo, Rainbow Book Bus, Skylight Books, Strand Bookstore
- PR Boxes and collabs with Hollywood friends & influencers
- Expected first printing: 20,000
- Timed for Pride Month
- Comp to: *What We Lost in the Swamp, Words of a Goat Princess, Coffee Days Whiskey Nights*

"A romantic walk down memory lane that fuels your senses."
— Michaela Angemeer

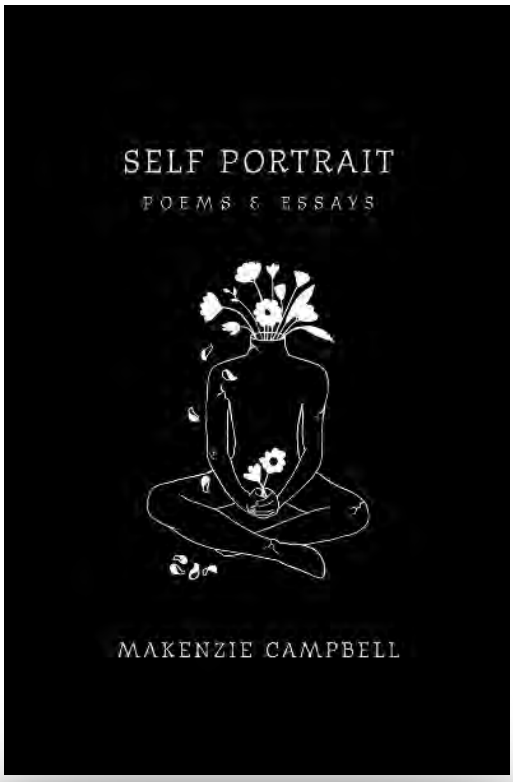
"A necessary addition to the queer literary canon."
— Grant Chemidlin

"A vulnerable, fluid and comforting world of love, loss, lust, and hope."
— Eli Rallo

"Filled with love even in the deepest heartaches."
— Brianna Pastor

"A tender yet visceral collection that spoke to my big bisexual heart."
— Jen Winston

"Christian makes poetry feel so fresh & modern."
— Rene Lynch



LEAD TITLE

SELF PORTRAIT

Embark on a journey of love, growth, and self-discovery in this poignant coming-of-age collection.

Bestselling poet Makenzie Campbell delves into the intricacies of falling in love, growing up, womanhood, and finding oneself.

Each chapter is accompanied by personal essays, offering an intimate glimpse into the inspiration behind her poetry. Lost in the labyrinth of her twenties, Makenzie paints her self-portrait with words, inviting readers to find their own reflections within the pages of this soul-stirring exploration.

MAKENZIE CAMPBELL

Makenzie Campbell is an author from Seattle. At eighteen, she released her first collection, *2am Thoughts*, a massive success. This was followed by *Nineteen* and *Rooms of the Mind*. Now in Denver, she's learning to navigate the labyrinth of her twenties. When she's not writing, she can be found exploring the mountains, pursuing a masters in mental health, or packing her 21-liter backpack to explore new lands.

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BOOK SPECS

September 3, 2024

978-1-77168-384-5 • Trade Paper • $16.99

POE021000 - Poetry by Women

5.25 X 8 IN 192pp

World Rights

Distributed to the trade by Simon & Schuster

PR Contact: Michelle Halket

michelle@centralavenuepublishing.com

WHY TO BUY

Makenzie Campbell's established success as a bestselling poet, combined with the raw honesty & exploration of this collection, makes it a must-read for fans of poetry and coming-of-age literature alike.

- 75,000 first printing
- From an established press with a track record of bestselling poetry titles
- Previous books have sold >250,000 copies and translated around the world
- Instagram Followers: 44.3K (Feb 2024)

Marketing Includes:

- Brand presence at bookseller shows
- NetGalley and Edelweiss ARC campaigns
- Goodreads giveaways
- Social media outreach
- Pre-order campaign with gifts
- Collaboration with poetry community

Compare to: *Changing With the Tides, Girl Made of Glass; I Gave Myself the World*

SMALL GHOST

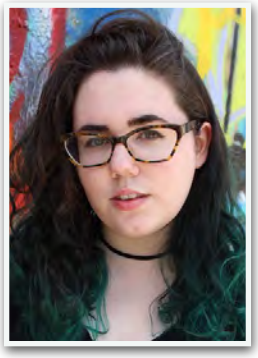
Sweet reassurance and validation for anyone feeling adrift—this collection of verse, illustrations, and photography is a poetic refuge far away from loneliness.

A delicate blend of melancholy reflections and absurd hopefulness, *Small Ghost* explores the exhausting reality of struggling with mental health. Mateer's conversational style, infused with vulnerability and thoughtfulness, transforms mundane experiences into wistful musings. Panic attacks at the grocery store and days spent wasting away in bed are met with humor and care.

Evocative photography and the poet's own illustrations add a whimsical, irreverent touch to the collection. With Small Ghost, Mateer holds out a hand & offers solace to those who may feel isolated in their peculiarities.

TRISTA MATEER

Trista Mateer is a passionate mental health advocate, utilizing her large online platform (and her work) to destigmatize and springboard conversations surrounding grief, loss, trauma, anxiety, depression, etc. Whatever she's writing about, Mateer invites readers into a world where vulnerability is celebrated.



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BOOK SPECS

September 24, 2024

978-1-77168-386-9 • Trade Paper • $19.99

POE021000 - Poetry - Full Color Interior

5.25 X 8 IN 192pp

World Rights

Distributed to the trade by Simon & Schuster

PR Contact: Michelle Halket

michelle@centralavenuepublishing.com

World Rights

WHY TO BUY

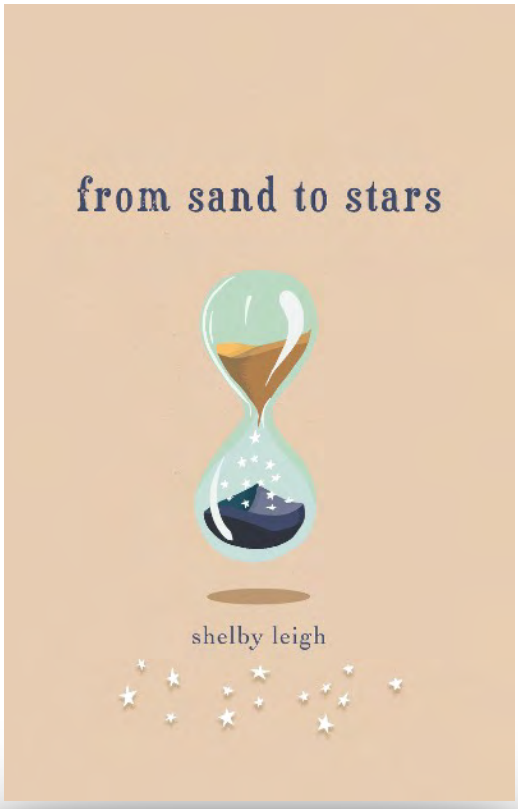
A compelling, relatable read for anyone struggling.

- From an established press of bestselling modern poetry.
- First printing = 50,000
- Goodreads Choice Winner with a strong selling backlist
  - Backlist: >150,000 copies
- Trista's longstanding fame on social media since the Tumblr days have created a strong and direct connection with her audience.
- Conversational writing style and whimsical imagery makes the book accessible and engaging for readers.
- Topics of depression and mental health are well shared on social media opening conversations among readers and influencers.

Marketing includes:

- Edelweiss & NetGalley; pre-order campaign; collaboration with fellow poets and mental health influencers; brand presence at regional shows.

Compare to: *The Shift, Persephone Made Me Do It, Girl Made of Glass, Rooms of the Mind.*



FROM SAND TO STARS

The bestselling poet of *Changing With the Tides* invites you to embrace the present, nurture self-growth, and discover hope in every moment of your journey through the sands of time.

Ever feel like you're running out of time? Feel lost thinking about the future? *From Sand to Stars* provides a reminder that every day is a new day to find joy and self-acceptance, no matter where you are in life's journey.

Exploring the concept of time and how it affects our mental health, From Sand to Stars will make you feel heard and seen, while inspiring you to embrace all life has to offer.

SHELBY LEIGH

Shelby Leigh is an author who explores mental health, self-love, and healing through poetry. She wrote this collection to examine the past and how it can haunt our minds through overthinking. When Leigh isn't writing, you can find her reading a good book, buying yellow home decor, and/or probably eating chocolate.

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BOOK SPECS

October 1, 2024

978-1-77168-388-3 Trade Paper $16.99

5.25 X 8 IN 160pp

POE021000 - Poetry / Women

World Rights

Distributed to the trade by Simon & Schuster

PR Contact: Michelle Halket

michelle@centralavenuepublishing.com

WHY TO BUY

Shelby Leigh's high engagement with fans and skillful marketing, combined with universal themes, make this book a compelling choice for readers in both trade and mass markets.

- From an established publisher of bestselling modern poetry.
- Social media following >525K
- Leigh's books resonate with readers worldwide, indicating broad appeal.
- Popular and universal themes of self-growth resonate with a wide audience, as well as being very current on social media.
- Backlist sales >40K units

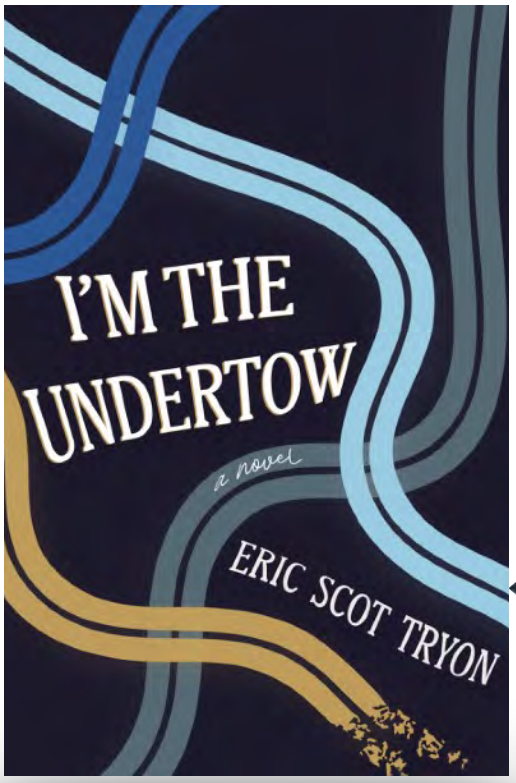
Marketing Includes:

- Central Avenue brand presence at regional shows
- NetGalley & Edelweiss campaigns
- Social media outreach
- Pre-order campaign
- Collaboration with poetry community.
- Author events: online with her poetry club, and will pitch to Sharjah Book Fair, GLIBA show, in-store and school events.

Compare to: *Changing With the Tides, Artemis Made Me Do It; Girl Made of Glass; I Gave Myself the World; Words of a Goat Princess; Softening Time*

FICTION

literary & genre
fiction by debut
and established
lauded authors



LEAD TITLE

BOOK SPECS

May 5, 2026

978-1-77168-448-4 • Hardcover • $30.00

FIC141000- Fiction/Death & Grief

6 X 9 IN 320pp World Rights

Distributed to the trade by Simon & Schuster

Publicity: Michelle Halket

michelle@centralavenuepublishing.com

Rights: Murray Weiss, Catalyst Literary Mgmt.

murray@catalystlit.com

I'M THE UNDERTOW

A haunting and tender debut about guilt, grief, and the unexpected places we go to find redemption.

When thirty-year-old Conner Robbins hits and kills a cyclist, no one blames him—but he can't stop blaming himself. A freak accident, they say. But Conner is consumed by guilt, and begins to shut himself off from the people who care about him, risking his closest relationships and a career he no longer feels he deserves.

In the weeks following the accident, Conner finds unexpected solace in an unlikely place: Evelyn, the mother of the man he killed. Their conversations offer comfort, even relief—but as their connection deepens, they begin to neglect the people and responsibilities in their own lives. Now, both Conner and Evelyn must confront the truth about their relationship. Is it a path toward healing—or are they simply prolonging the pain?

ERIC SCOT TRYON

Eric Scot Tryon is a writer and editor from San Francisco, California, where he lives with his wife, daughter, cat, and several poison dart frogs. His short fiction has been published in over 50 literary magazines, and he is also the Founding Editor of the literary magazine Flash Frog.

WHY TO BUY

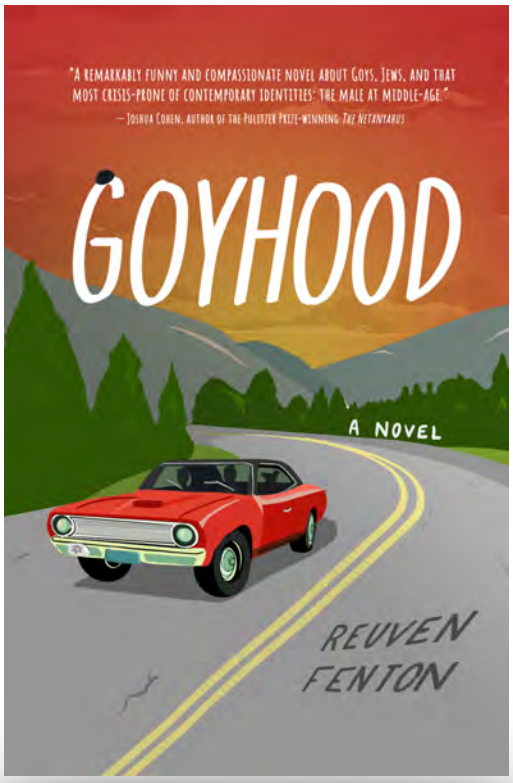
A quietly stunning debut about guilt, connection, and the unexpected bonds that form in the wake of tragedy.

- Compelling book club potential which explores moral ambiguity and grief
- A tale of unconventional relationships and the lengths we go for forgiveness.
- By a well respected editor with strong ties to the literary community
- Blurbs forthcoming from several lauded, NYT-bestselling, and well-known authors

Marketing Includes:

- Print & digital ads in trade journals
- Review campaign
- Trade journal, NetGalley, StoryGraph, Goodreads, Edelweiss ARC and advertising campaigns
- Comprehensive traditional media campaign for North America, UK & ANZ
- Social Influencer outreach
- Winter Institute; table, editor picks
- Focus on Indie Bookseller channel:
  - Advance Access; Indies Introduce; Spring shows, eblasts, preorders via local San Francisco bookstore

Compare to: *Belonging; The Imagined Life; Goyhood; Sea Change; The Evening Shades*



LEAD TITLE

BOOK SPECS

May 28, 2024

978-1-77168-368-5 • Cloth w/Jacket •

$28.00

FIC046000 - Fiction/Jewish

6 X 9 IN 352pp

World Rights

Distributed to the trade by Simon & Schuster

PR Contact: Michelle Halket

michelle@centralavenuepublishing.com

GOYHOOD

One man's surprising discovery leads to a hilarious and transformative road trip.

Thirty years after leaving Georgia, Mayer Belkin, a Talmud scholar married into a prestigious Brooklyn rabbinical family, faces a shocking revelation after his mother's death: he and his twin brother aren't actually Jewish.

Traumatized, Mayer decides to convert, facing a week-long wait for the earliest appointment. In the interim, the twins embark on a surreal Rumspringa through the Deep South with Mom's ashes, joined by an Instagram influencer, and a one-eyed dog. Amidst bizarre adventures, Mayer grapples with his perceived betrayal by God and contends with his emotionally distant wife in Brooklyn, who has yet to learn of his counterfeit identity.

REUVEN FENTON

Reuven Fenton has been covering breaking news for the *New York Post* since 2007, and has earned national recognition for his exclusive reporting on myriad national stories. He is a graduate of Yeshiva University and Columbia University School of Journalism. *Goyhood* is his debut novel.

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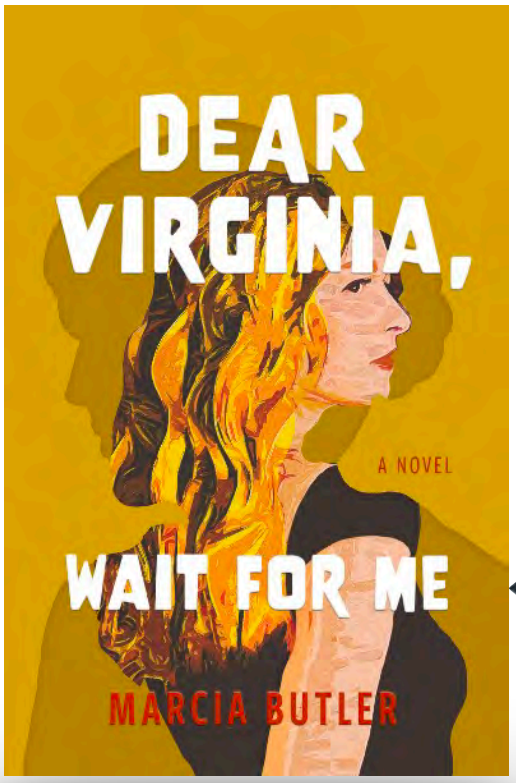
WHY TO BUY

- A hilarious and touching coming of middle-age debut exploring faith and family
- By an established journalist with strong ties to the literary community
- Blurbs from a dozen Pulitzer Prize-winning, NYT-bestselling, and well-known authors
- Print & digital ads in trade magazines
- NetGalley, StoryGraph, Goodreads, Edelweiss campaigns
- Traditional & social media campaign
- Regional indie bookseller eblasts & ads
- Author tour: NY and area
- Email marketing campaigns
- Pitch to Jewish Book Council
- First printing: 50,000
- Comp to: *The Orchard; Kaddish.com; Unorthodox; This is Where I Leave You;* TV Shows like *My Unorthodox Life and Shtisel*

"Remarkably funny & compassionate."
– Joshua Cohen
"Profoundly delicious."
– Elinor Lipman
"Touching and funny." – Bethany Ball
"Joyful, creative." – Mischa Berlinski
"Impossibly charming." – Boris Fishman
"Brilliant in its execution." – Steve Stern



LEAD TITLE

BOOK SPECS

May 6, 2025

978-1-77168-408-8 • Trade Paper • $18.00

FIC043000 - Fiction/Coming of Age

6 X 9 IN 192pp World Rights

Distributed to the trade by Simon & Schuster

Publicity: Michelle Halket

michelle@centralavenuepublishing.com

Rights: Murray Weiss, Catalyst Literary Mgmt.

murray@catalystlit.com

WHY TO BUY

Perfect for fans of tales of reinvention, this novel appeals to the trend of simpler modern times and the popularity of Virginia Woolf. A tale of resilience, told from the perspective of a neurodiverse protagonist.

- By a lauded author with 3 previous books and strong ties to the literary community
- Blurbs from several Pulitzer Prize-winning, NYT-bestselling, and well-known authors

Marketing Includes:

- Print & digital ads in trade magazines
- Early reader campaigns
- Traditional & social media campaign
- Regional indie bookseller eblasts & ads
- Author tour: NYC and Santa Fe
- Email marketing campaigns
- First printing: 20,000

Compare to: *Joe Nuthin's Guide to Life; A Likely Story; Old Flame; Goyhood*

"Full of wit and charm."
— Jonathan Lee
"Original, poignant, playful."
— Joan Silber
"Compelling, sweet, surprising."
— Lori Ostlund

DEAR VIRGINIA, WAIT FOR ME

A sensitive portrait of a vulnerable yet resilient young woman who, with the help of an inner voice and newfound friends, attempts to find her way in turn-of-the-millennium Manhattan.

Peppa Ryan is defying her parents to take a job on Wall Street. Ever guided by an inner voice she believes is Virginia Woolf the brilliant yet insecure Peppa flourishes until a surprising bond with a penniless plumber, followed by a crushing betrayal by her parents, turns her world upside down.

While Peppa grapples with her shattered trust she finds strength in a growing independence and the support of newfound friends. And as she rebuilds her life, she contemplates a new path forward. Perfect for fans of *Where'd You Go, Bernadette*, this compelling novel captures a young woman's journey to find herself and a place in the world.

MARCIA BUTLER

Marcia Butler has had a number of creative careers: professional musician, interior designer, documentary filmmaker, and author. She is the author of two lauded novels and a highly praised memoir. After many decades in New York City, Marcia now makes her home in Santa Fe, New Mexico.

THE MISSING BARONESS

A cozy Regency mystery with a hidden heiress, slow-burn romance, and layered intrigue—perfect for fans of brave & feisty heroines.

No one has seen Georgina Bligh in ten years—not since her uncle murdered her father and tried to kill her. Hidden with her best friend's family, she's spent the years preparing to reclaim her title as Baroness of Elmsford. But a chance encounter in London forces her to act before her twenty-first birthday.

Silas Bligh, deep in debt and desperate to control the estate, is about to have Georgina declared dead. But the true will disinherited him—and Georgina must find it before time runs out.

With help from her longtime crush, Lord Bertram Redwick, and loyal allies, Georgina plunges into a dangerous search through hidden ledgers and London's elite. But someone will stop at nothing to keep the truth buried.

BIANCA M. SCHWARZ

Bianca M. Schwarz is the author of the popular *Gentleman Spy Mysteries* and the *Inconvenient Heirs* series. She makes her home in Los Angeles with her husband and son. When she's not writing, she captures the beauty of the world through photography and finding inspiration in the everyday.

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BOOK SPECS

June 16, 2026

978-1-77168-451-4 Trade Paper $19.00

5.5 X 8.25 IN 320pp

FICTION / Historical Romance/Mystery

Distributed by Simon & Schuster

World Rights: Murray Weiss, Catalyst Lit Mgmt.

murray@catalystlit.com

Publicity: Michelle Halket

michelle@centralavenuepublishing.com

WHY TO BUY

A cozy yet high-stakes Regency romance mystery for fans of Bridgerton and Mimi Matthews, featuring a hidden heiress, a vanished will, and a deadly fight for inheritance.

- The first entry in the *Inconvenient Heirs* series.
- Cross-market appeal for fans of romantic suspense and traditional Regency..
- Author with success in historical mystery & Regency romance
    - Backlist sales of 15K

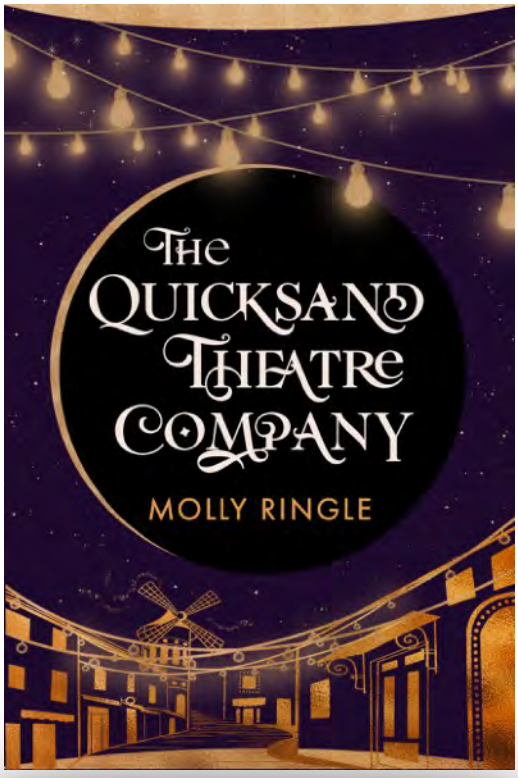
Marketing Includes:

- NetGalley & Edelweiss ARC campaign
- Outreach and e-blasts with CA stores
- Consumer campaign with giveaways and prizes
- Influencer outreach and socials tour

Compare to: *To Woo and To Wed; The Trouble With Anna; The Missing Diamond; A Vicious Machination; A Lady's Guide to Scandal*

Praise for Previous Books

- "Immersive & suspenseful." ***Publishers Weekly***
- "Full of dark twists and hot trysts." ***Grace Burrowes***



THE QUICKSAND THEATRE COMPANY

A swoon-worthy, slow-burn, cozy, queer romantic fantasy.

When Vai Delvecchio leaves their home—fleeing a family scandal—they knock on the door of an unlikely but alluring sanctuary: the travelling Quicksand Theatre Company. Lead actor Leo Takahashi grants Vai a bed in his caravan, and Via finds their respectable life transformed into a whimsical world of sequins and comedy sketches.

But trouble waits in the wings. Vai must face the fallout of their family's mistakes, and Leo guards a dangerous secret: soon, an unbreakable deal he made with a malevolent faery will take effect, destroying his freedom —and potentially his life.

Yet it may be in the darkest lairs of the fae realm, and in the painful longing of separation, that Vai and Leo each find the truth that makes them whole again.

MOLLY RINGLE

Molly Ringle was one of the quiet, weird kids in school, and is now one of the quiet, weird writers of the world. For as long as she can remember, from elementary school libraries to university anthropology courses to the deliciously imaginative niches of online fandom, she's been passionately drawn to queer literature and other works that challenge and reshape cultures.

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BOOK SPECS

February 24, 2026

978-1-77168-442-2 Trade Paper $19.00

6 X 9 IN 320pp

FICTION / FANTASY

Distributed by Simon & Schuster

World Rights: Murray Weiss, Catalyst Lit Mgmt.

murray@catalystlit.com

Publicity: Michelle Halket

michelle@centralavenuepublishing.com

WHY TO BUY

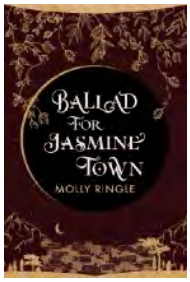
Step into a realm of diverse characters in a captivating, fae-centric world.

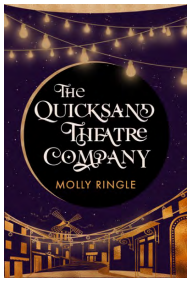
- A standalone entry in the Eidolonia series —accessible to new and returning readers.
- Features normalized queer representation and a genderqueer protagonist.
- Romantasy blended with whimsy; appeals to readers of TJ Klune & Freya Marske.
- Strong crossover potential to YA readers.
- Ideal for Pride Month & LGBTQ+ displays.

Marketing Includes:

- NetGalley & Edelweiss ARC campaign
- Outreach to local Pacific Northwest booksellers
- E-blasts with PNBA
- Author appearances in Seattle & Portland area
- Consumer pre-order campaign with prizes
- Consumer giveaways via Goodreads, The StoryGraph & social media

Compare to: *The Last Dragon in the East; The Moonlight Market: The Road to Ruin; Testament; A Restless Truth*





THE MEMORY OF HER

Eliza Broad has overcome much to become a confident woman and spy, thanks to the attention of Sir Henry March. Fellow spy and good friend, Allen Strathem has secretly loved Eliza from the moment he met her. He left for a mission on the Crimea with the memory of Eliza keeping him sane during the horrors of captivity.

When he returns, Eliza is tasked with helping Allen recover. But danger has followed him back to England, Eliza is elated that Allen not only accepts her help, but respects her skill. With danger and intrigue around every corner, Eliza and Allen must rely on and trust each other, and soon their once-buried love for each other becomes a driving force.

BIANCA M. SCHWARZ

Bianca M. Schwarz was born in Germany, spent her formative years in London, and now lives in Los Angeles with her husband and teenage son. She has been telling stories all her life and holds a degree in English literature.

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Bianca M. Schwarz

April 5, 2022

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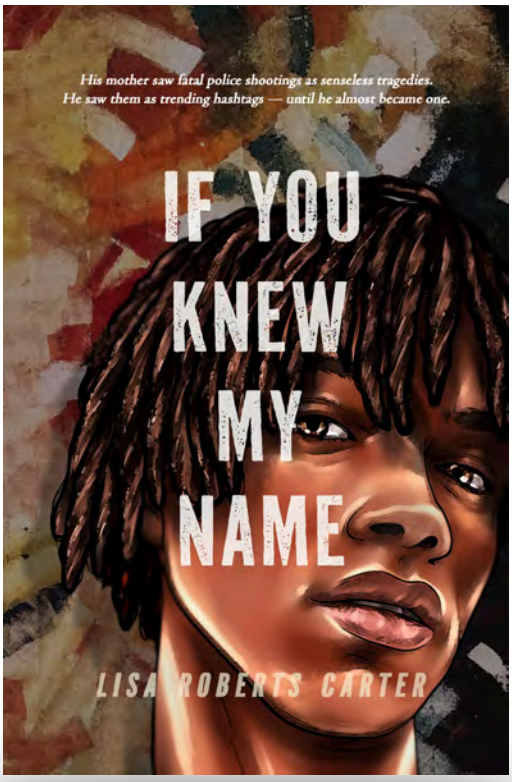


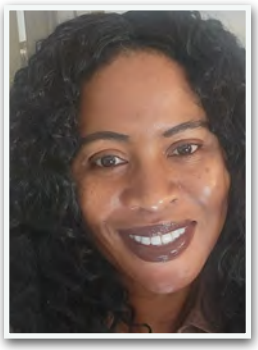
IF YOU KNEW MY NAME

An aspiring teen rap artist saw police brutality as trending hashtags — until he nearly became one.

Mason Zy'Aire Tyndall dreams big—sick beats, epic mic-drops, sold-out stadiums. He's set on becoming a rap star, steering clear of BLM protests and desks. To make a name, he needs to graduate high school, but failing senior year looms. Dismissing poetry class, Mason learns its worth from his teacher. However, when an unarmed Black man is killed by the police, tensions escalate.

Caught in the middle of increasingly violent conflicts, Mason will have to find a way to use his voice for change . . . and fast.

LISA ROBERTS CARTER



Growing up in the rural South during desegregation, Lisa Roberts Carter is no stranger to racism. She recalls her mother and older sister having "the talk" with her on her very first day of school. A certified life and career coach with a Doctorate of Education, *If You Knew My Name* is her debut novel.

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