

New England Independent Booksellers Association

The 46th Annual Fall Conference

Rhode Island Convention Center • Providence, RI

October 2 – 4, 2019

Wednesday

Keynote Speaker

Erik Larson, *The Splendid and the Vile: A Saga of Churchill, Family, and Defiance During the Blitz*, Penguin Random House

Rep Pick-Nic

Education

Author Reception

Adrienne Brodeur, Noe Alvarez, Kacen Callender, Amy Rose Capetta & Cori McCarthy, Rob Cocuzzo, Elisha Cooper, Matthew Dicks, Julia Drake, Amity Gaige, Ryan T. Higgins, Lily King, Rajani LaRocca, Ryan La Sala, Oge Mora, Kate Elizabeth Russell, Alexis Schaitkin, Victoria Schwab, Julia Spencer-Fleming, Suzanne Staubach, Richard Stengel, Laura E. Weymouth, Laura Zigman (with more to come!)

Thursday

Children's Breakfast

Kate Messner, *Chirp*, Bloomsbury

Jessie Sima, *Spencer's New Pet*, Simon & Schuster

Renee Watson, *Some Places More than Others*, Bloomsbury

Exhibit Day

Editor Buzz Panels

Awards Banquet

NEIBA Book Awards

President's Award

Saul Gilman Award: **Emily Cervone**, Chronicle Books

Independent Spirit Award

Friday

Author Breakfast

Samantha Power, *The Education of an Idealist*, HarperCollins

Aarti Namdev Shahani, *Here We Are*, Celadon

Jon Clinch, *Marley*, Atria Books

Nikki Grimes, *Ordinary Hazards*, Boyd Mills Press

Education

Annual Meeting

Luncheon

Erin Morgenstern, *The Starless Sea*, Penguin Random House

NEIBA 2019 Fall Conference

Schedule of Events

Wednesday, October 2, 2019

Keynote, Publisher Pick-Nic, Education, and Author Reception

Education Sessions sponsored by Ingram Book Company and Penguin Random House.

9:00 am – 10:30 am

From Hassle to Habit: How to Boost Profits with Coop

The efficient claiming of publisher cooperative advertising funds can be a game-changer for your store's bottom line, but our publisher partners report that stores are leaving a significant amount of money on the table by not taking advantage of what's offered. Attend this early-bird NEIBA Fall Conference session to learn from publishers and peers how to fit coop into your already-too-busy schedule and reap the resulting profits. You'll come away with specific strategies for wrestling coop to the ground, from engaging with (surprisingly affordable) outside services, to working more closely with your (eager to help) sales reps, to instituting personal organization strategies that can take claiming coop from hassle to habit.

10:00 am – 5:30 pm

Registration Open

10:00 am – 7:00 pm

Exhibitor Move-In

11:00 am – 12:00 pm

Keynote

Advance ticket required

Erik Larson, *The Splendid and the Vile: A Saga of Churchill, Family, and Defiance During the Blitz*, Penguin Random House

12:15 pm – 2:15 pm

Publishers' Rep Pick-Nic Lunch

Advance ticket required

Bookstore Owner Roundtable Lunch

Advance sign-up required

Buyer Roundtable Lunch

Advance sign-up required

Café Owner/Manager Roundtable Lunch

Advance sign-up required

2:30 pm – 3:45 pm

Visual Merchandizing for Inclusion

You only have a few seconds to attract—and hold—a customer's attention, so it's critical that you get it right if you want to turn a browser into a buyer. Visual merchandising is an essential skill for every store to master...but can it also be a teachable moment? A way to live our striving-for-more-inclusivity values? Store displays done right tell a story that can tap into both your mission statement, and a customer's needs. Join booksellers and buyers to learn the specifics of how to make eye-catching, inclusive in-store displays.

Buying & Selling Books in Translation

We live in a globalized world, but what we read and watch in the U.S. is almost entirely homegrown. Why? Ideas are borderless, and engaging stories can come from anywhere, but only about 3% of all books published in the United States are works in translation...and that includes all books. Narrow it down to fiction and poetry and the number is less than 1%. In short, we have little exposure to what the rest of the world is reading. Independent bookstores are in a unique position to foster cultural unity through putting more of these books in front of our customers. In this session, learn how to better buy, promote, and sell literature in translation and how to use this category in outreach to schools and community groups.

Worst Case Scenario: How to Prepare for the Unexpected

When your business is hit by a disaster, you need to have a plan. Whether you are dealing with floods, fire, or other unexpected and catastrophic events, your store's survival will depend on having solid emergency procedures in place and a resilient and adaptable business model. But this bit of organizational housekeeping seems to always end up at the bottom of our to-do lists. In this session we'll move it to the top, with the goal that it be the first thing you'll check off when you return from the conference: booksellers who have first-hand experience with emergencies in their stores and communities will share best practices, including their own emergency plans for you to use as a model, and our friends at BINC will review the resources they have available.

ABA: Making the Most of ABA Membership

A representative from the ABA team will guide new and prospective members through the many benefits of membership. Topics to be discussed include ABA's ABACUS survey, box mailing program, Indie Next List, annual events, and many others. After a brief presentation, the floor will be open for questions fielded by the ABA team. All current ABA members are also welcome to attend.

4:00 pm – 5:15 pm

Windows & Mirrors

Join us as NECBA's dedicated committee presents the 2019 selection list for the annual Windows and Mirrors Project. The committee uses the concept of windows and mirrors popularized by Dr. Rudine Sims Bishop to develop a thoughtful, inclusive reading list of well-written and well-illustrated "diverse" books. This session will assist booksellers interested in handselling and curating diverse and inclusive selections in their own stores, as the committee discusses their process selection and talks about the future of the project.

Digital Branding/Social Media 2.0

Successful social media marketing requires more than just posting and sharing content. Consultant talk: Understanding the power of engagement and customer relationships can generate name recognition, sales, and more in-store foot traffic. Real talk: Your store can punch well above its square-footage weight if you're able to put a concrete online branding strategy in place and use it consistently on all platforms. This session will teach you how to develop a more informed, organized, goal-oriented approach to your social media that will help you achieve your branding goals. **It is designed to benefit any bookseller who currently manages one or more social media accounts and is actively marketing on social media on a daily or weekly basis.**

Working with Your Telephone Sales Reps

The best telephone sales reps are a smart bookstore's secret weapon—a Jedi Master at the other end of the phone line who can solve problems in a flash, rush orders, and explain the often-baffling minutiae of how publishers work. But it can be a challenge to develop a strong relationship with someone who you never meet in person. And what do you do if you're assigned someone who isn't doing right by your store? This session, which will include publisher reps and booksellers, will teach you best practices to maximize your relationship with your inside sales rep to improve your store's bottom line, talk through the most effective strategies for dealing with someone who isn't giving it their all, and provide a deeper understanding of how telephone sales works in-house at our publisher partners.

6:00 – 7:30 pm

Author Cocktail Reception

All attendees welcome!

Adrienne Brodeur, Noe Alvarez, Kacen Callender, Amy Rose Capetta & Cori McCarthy, Rob Cocuzzo, Elisha Cooper, Matthew Dicks, Julia Drake, Amity Gaige, Ryan T. Higgins, Lily King, Rajani LaRocca, Ryan La Sala, Oge Mora, Kate Elizabeth Russell, Alexis Schaitkin, Victoria Schwab, Julia Spencer-Fleming, Suzanne Staubach, Richard Stengel, Laura E. Weymouth, Laura Zigman (with more to come!)

After Hours Events

9:30 pm – 11:00 pm

Costume Party + Skype Q&A with Author Tamsyn Muir, *Gideon the Ninth*, Sponsored by Tor.com

Advance ticket required

9:30 pm – 12:00 a.m.

**LIVE MUSIC from The Stripped Covers + raffle, all proceeds to benefit the Binc Carla Gray Memorial Scholarship Fund, Askew (150 Chestnut St, Providence).
\$15 at the door.**

Thursday, October 3, 2019

Children's Author Breakfast, Exhibits, Editor Buzz Panels, and Awards Banquet

7:30 am – 5:30 pm

Registration Open

7:30 am – 10:00 am

Exhibitor Set-Up

8:30 am – 10:00 am

Children's Author & Illustrator Breakfast

Sponsored by Bookazine

Advance ticket required

Kate Messner, *Chirp*, Bloomsbury

Jessie Sima, *Spencer's New Pet*, Simon & Schuster

Renee Watson, *Some Places More than Others*, Bloomsbury

10:00 am – 11:00 am

NECBA Meeting

Are you passionate about children's literature? Join the New England Children's Bookselling Advisory Council as they present their agenda for the upcoming year! Learn about new events, educational opportunities, and how you can get involved. NECBA is open to all NEIBA booksellers, so don't miss out.

10:00 am – 4:00 pm

Trade Show Exhibits Open

Author Signings at Exhibitor Tables

12:00 pm – 1:15 pm

Editor Buzz Panel Lunches

Adult
Advance ticket required

Children's
Advance ticket required

3:00 pm
NEIBA and Publisher Raffle Winners Announced

4:00 pm
BINC Heads or Tails Game

6:00 pm – 9:00 pm
Awards Banquet
Advance ticket required
NEIBA Book Awards
President's Award
Saul Gilman Award: **Emily Cervone**, Chronicle Books
Independent Spirit Award

Friday, October 4, 2019
Author Breakfast, NEIBA Annual Meeting, and Luncheon
Education Sessions sponsored by Ingram Book Company and Penguin Random House.

7:30 am – 1:30 pm
Registration Open

8:30 am – 10:00 am
Author Breakfast
Sponsored by HarperCollins
Advance ticket required
Samantha Power, *The Education of an Idealist*, HarperCollins
Aarti Namdev Shahani, *Here We Are*, Celadon
Jon Clinch, *Marley*, Atria Books
Nikki Grimes, *Ordinary Hazards*, Boyd Mills Press

10:15 am – 11:15 am
Genre Through The Ages: Handselling Sci-Fi & Fantasy from Picture Books to Adult
Let's jump into genre fiction! How do you handsell science-fiction and fantasy books? What should you know about the genre? This panel will take you on a journey from handselling science-fiction and fantasy books from picture books all the way to adult fiction. We'll tackle how to help young readers find genre fiction to fall in love with—even if you don't read it—along with how to navigate those tricky age gaps, graphic novels, reluctant readers, and nervous parents.

Pop-up Stores
Pop-up locations, large and small, can serve as opportunistic revenue generators and powerful extensions of your store's brand, garnering new customers, media attention, and a higher profile in your community. They can also be huge time/money sucks that leave you wondering why on EARTH you agreed to such an endeavor. Learn the difference in this panel, and the opportunities attached to launching a temporary retail location for your store.

ABA: Independent Bookstore Day

Independent Bookstore Day (IBD) has grown from a handful of bookstores in California to a national celebration involving over 575 stores and, in some cases, city wide celebrations. Participating bookstores see an increase in sales, increased foot traffic and increased brand awareness. Because of the national growth of this successful program, ABA has agreed to take on the management of IBD for 2020. This session will offer attendees an overview of the program and tips from booksellers who have figured out how to make the most of IBD. Panelists will offer information on how to order and make the most of the IBD exclusive merchandise; how to organize and publicize your store's party to bring people into your store; and how to use social media strategically to increase sales and community participation.

11:30 am – 12:15 pm

NEIBA Annual Meeting

12:30 pm – 2:34 pm

Keynote Luncheon

Advance ticket required

Erin Morgenstern, *Starless Sea*, Penguin Random House

Important Information

No Meal Ticket Refunds

Please note that NEIBA will no longer issue credit for unused meal tickets. Because these meals usually sell out, and there are always booksellers looking to attend who don't have tickets, please use the Bookseller Facebook Forum as a have-a-ticket/need-a-ticket swap space. If you buy a ticket that you ultimately don't need, please notify the group on Facebook to seek a buyer/taker. If you aren't a member of the Facebook Forum, please email Beth@NEBA.org from your Facebook-associated email address so we can rectify that situation immediately (you're missing all the fun!)

No Carts

No carts, luggage on wheels or empty strollers or carriages are allowed in the exhibit ballroom during regular exhibit hours. If you have a legitimate medical need to a cart, please email Ali@NEBA.org before the show to obtain permission.

No Audible Cell Phones

For all NEIBA programming, breakfasts, dinner, workshops, please turn off audible cell phones.

Please Ask Before Taking

Attendees are reminded of NEIBA's "Do Not Take, Please Ask" policy. Do not remove galleys or books from exhibitor tables without permission – they may be the only copy at the show. Please report any violations of this policy to Convention Center Security or Executive Director Beth Ineson.

Where to Stay

NEIBA has reserved a block of rooms at two Providence hotels: The Omni at One Exchange Street, Providence, RI 02903 (800) 843-6664. Room rates at the Omni are \$205 per night. The Graduate (formerly, The Biltmore) at 11 Dorrance Street, Providence RI 02903. (401) 421-0700. The room rates at The Graduate are \$187 per night.

Rates reflect single, double or junior suite occupancy, plus tax. Hourly and overnight parking is available at both hotels at their published rates. You must reference NEIBA when making your reservation to receive the group rate. All reservations must be guaranteed with a one-night room deposit by remitting a check or a major credit card number and expiration date. If a reservation is cancelled, one night's room and tax will be forfeited.

Deadline for room reservations is Tuesday September 3, 2019.

Meet the Authors

Keynote Speaker

Erik Larson, *The Splendid and the Vile: A Saga of Churchill, Family, and Defiance During the Blitz*, Penguin Random House

On Winston Churchill's first day as prime minister, Hitler invaded Holland and Belgium. Poland and Czechoslovakia had already fallen, and the Dunkirk evacuation was just two weeks away. For the next twelve months, Hitler would wage a relentless bombing campaign, killing 45,000 Britons (30,000 of them Londoners) and destroying two million homes. It was up to Churchill to hold the country together and persuade President Franklin Roosevelt that Britain was a worthy ally—that she was willing to fight to the end.

Erik Larson is the author of five national bestsellers: *Dead Wake*, *In the Garden of Beasts*, *Thunderstruck*, *The Devil in the White City*, and *Isaac's Storm*, which have collectively sold more than 9 million copies. His books have been published in nearly 20 countries.

Author Reception

Noe Alvarez, *Spirit Run*, Catapult

For fans of Christopher McDougall's *Born to Run*, the electrifying debut memoir of a son of working-class Mexican immigrants who fled a life of labor in fruit-packing plants to run in a Native American marathon from Canada to Guatemala, challenging himself to reimagine North America and his place in it.

Noé Álvarez was born to Mexican immigrant parents and raised working-class in Yakima, Washington. He holds degrees in philosophy and creative writing from Whitman College and Emerson College, respectively. He studied conflict analysis, peacemaking, and conflict resolution at American University and in Northern Ireland, received a fellowship at Princeton University's Woodrow Wilson School, and researched U.S. drug policy, military aid, and human rights issues in Colombia's Putumayo jungles. He lives in Boston, where, until recently, he worked as a security officer at the Boston Athenæum.

Adrienne Brodeur, *Wild Game*, Houghton Mifflin Harcourt

On a hot July night on Cape Cod when Adrienne was fourteen, her mother, Malabar, woke her at midnight with five simple words that would set the course of both of their lives for years to come: *Ben Souther just kissed me*. Adrienne instantly became her mother's confidante and helpmate, blossoming in the sudden light of her attention, and from then on, Malabar came to rely on her daughter to help orchestrate what would become an epic affair with her husband's closest friend. The affair would have calamitous consequences for everyone involved, impacting Adrienne's life in profound ways, driving her into a precarious marriage of her own, and then into a deep depression. Only years later will she find the strength to embrace her life—and her mother—on her own terms.

Adrienne Brodeur began her career in publishing as the co-founder, along with filmmaker Francis Ford Coppola, of the fiction magazine *Zoetrope: All-Story*, which won the National Magazine Award for Best Fiction three times and launched the careers of many writers. She was a book editor at Houghton Mifflin Harcourt for many years and, currently, she is the Executive Director of Aspen Words, a program of the Aspen Institute. She has published essays in the *New York Times*. She splits her time between New York City and Cape Cod with her husband and children.

Kacen Callender, *Queen of the Conquered*, Orbit

Sigourney Rose is the only surviving daughter of a noble lineage on the islands of Hans Lollik. When she was a child, her family was murdered by the islands' colonizers, who have massacred and enslaved generations of her people — and now, Sigourney is ready to exact her revenge. *Queen of the Conquered* reckons with the many layers of power and privilege in a lush fantasy world — perfect for readers of S. A. Chakraborty, Ken Liu, and Tasha Suri.

Kacen Callender was born two days after a hurricane and was first brought home to a house without its roof. After spending their first eighteen years on St. Thomas of the US Virgin Islands, Kacen studied Japanese, Fine Arts, and Creative Writing at Sarah Lawrence College and received their MFA from the New School. Kacen is the author of the middle grade novel *Hurricane Child* and the young adult novel *This Is Kind of an Epic Love Story*.

Cori McCarthy & Amy Rose Capetta, *The Sword in the Stars*, Jimmy Patterson

In this epic sequel to *Once & Future*, to save the future, Ari and her Rainbow knights pull off a heist thousands of years in the past. It's imperative that the time travelers not skew the timeline and alter the course of history. Coming face-to-face with the original Arthurian legend could produce a ripple effect that changes everything. Somehow Merlin forgot that the past can be even more dangerous than the future...

Cori McCarthy is an Irish-Lebanese American who, like many of their characters, is a member of the LGBTQ+ community.

After earning a BA in Creative Writing from Ohio University, they completed UCLA's Professional Program in Screenwriting and earned an MFA in Writing for Children & Young Adults from Vermont College of Fine Arts. Cori lives in the mountains of Vermont with their partner and young son.

Amy Rose Capetta holds a BA in Theater Arts from UC Santa Cruz and an MFA in Writing for Children and Young Adults from VCFA. With Cori McCarthy, she is the co-founder of the Rainbow Boxes initiative which sent LGBTQIAP fiction to readers in all 50 states, and the Rainbow Writers Workshop, which helps find and develop exciting new voices. She lives in Vermont with her *Once & Future* co-author and the champion of her heart, Cori.

Rob Cocuzzo, *The Road to San Donato*, Mountaineers Books

The Road to San Donato is an adventurous travel memoir of an American father and son tracing their Italian heritage by bicycle. With only the bare essentials on their backs, author Robert Cocuzzo and his sixty-four-year-old father, Stephen, embark on a torturous 425-mile ride from Florence, Italy, to San Donato Val di Comino, an ancient village hidden in the Apennine mountains from which their family emigrated a hundred years earlier. After getting lost, beaten down, and very nearly stranded, when they finally reach the village the Cocuzzos discover much more than their own family story.

Freelance writer Robert Cocuzzo is author of hundreds of published pieces covering a wide-range of topics and is currently editor of N Magazine, a high-end, luxury lifestyle magazine based on Nantucket Island. Over the course of his tenure, he has interviewed and profiled the likes of Academy Award-winning director Ron Howard and best-selling author Sebastian Junger. He is also a regular columnist for Boston Common magazine and a contributor to Departures magazine (American Express publication). He lives in Arlington, MA.

Elisha Cooper, *River*, Scholastic

A breathtaking adventure as a traveler and her canoe begin their trek down the Hudson River. In a mountain lake, the canoe gently enters the water's edge, paddling toward the river. The nautical journey begins. In Cooper's flowing prose and stunning watercolor scenes, readers can follow along the trek as the woman and her canoe explore the wildlife, flora and fauna, and urban landscape at the river's edge. Through perilous weather and river rushes, the canoe and her captain survive and maneuver their way down the river back home.

Elisha Cooper is the award-winning author of *Train*, which received five starred reviews; *Farm*, which received starred reviews in *Horn Book Magazine* and *Publishers Weekly* and *Beach*, which won the 2006 Society of Illustrators Gold Medal. Elisha Cooper lives with his family in New York City.

Matthew Dicks, *Twenty-One Truths About Love*, Macmillan

Dan is also an obsessive list maker, and his story unfolds entirely in his lists, which are brimming with Dan's hilarious sense of humor, unique world-view, and deeply personal thoughts. When read in full, his lists paint a picture of a man struggling to be a man, a man who has reached a point where he's willing to anything for the love (and soon-to-be new love) of his life.

Matthew Dicks is a writer and elementary school teacher. He has been published in the *Hartford Courant*, featured at the Books on the Nightstand retreat, and is a Moth StorySLAM champion. He is the author of three previous novels, *Something Missing*, *Unexpectedly Milo*, and *Memoirs of an Imaginary Friend*, an international bestseller. His novels have been translated into more than 25 languages. Dicks lives in Newington, Connecticut, with his wife, Elysha, and their two children.

Julia Drake, *Last True Poets of the Sea*, Disney-Hyperion

The Larkin family isn't just lucky—they *persevere*. At least that's what Violet and her younger brother, Sam, were always told. When the *Lytic* sank off the coast of Maine, their great-great-great-grandmother didn't drown like the rest of the passengers. No, Fidelia swam to shore, fell in love, and founded Lyric, Maine, the town Violet and Sam returned to every summer. But wrecks seem to run in the family: Tall, funny, musical Violet can't stop partying with the wrong people. And, one beautiful summer day, brilliant, sensitive Sam attempts to take his own life. From a stunning new voice in YA literature comes an epic, utterly unforgettable contemporary novel about a lost shipwreck, a missing piece of family history, and weathering the storms of life.

Julia Drake grew up outside Philadelphia. As a teenager, she played some of Shakespeare's best heroines in her high school theater program, and their stories would stay with her forever. She received her BA in Spanish from Williams College, and her MFA in creative writing from Columbia University, where she also taught writing to first-year students. She currently works as a book coach for aspiring writers and teaches creative writing classes for Writopia, a nonprofit that fosters love of writing in young adults. She lives in San Francisco with her partner and their rescue rabbit, Ned.

Amity Gaige, *Sea Wife*, Knopf

Juliet is failing to juggle motherhood and her anemic dissertation when her husband, Michael, informs her that he wants to leave his job and buy a sailboat. The couple are novice sailors, but Michael persuades Juliet to say yes. With their two kids—Sybil, age seven, and George, age two, Juliet and Michael set off for Panama, where their forty-four-foot sailboat awaits them—a boat that Michael has christened the *Juliet*. *Sea Wife* is told in gripping dual perspectives: Juliet's first-person narration, after the journey, as she struggles to come to terms with the dire, life-changing events that unfolded at sea; and Michael's captain's log—that provides a riveting, slow-motion account of those same inexorable events.

Amity Gaige is the author of three novels, *O My Darling*, *The Folded World*, and *Schroder*, which was short-listed for the Folio Prize in 2014. She has a Fulbright and a Guggenheim Fellowship, and residencies at MacDowell and Yaddo. Her work has appeared in *The Guardian*, *The New York Times*, *the Literary Review*, *The Yale Review*, and *One Story*. She lives in Connecticut with her family.

Ryan T. Higgins, *Bruce's Big Storm*, Disney-Hyperion

Bruce's home is already a full house, but when a big storm brings all his woodland neighbors knocking, he'll have to open his door to a crowd of animals in need of shelter—whether he likes it or not. The next installment of the uproarious, award-winning Mother Bruce picture book series.

Ryan T. Higgins is an author and illustrator who likes the outdoors and cheese sandwiches. He is NOT a grumpy old black bear, but he DOES like making books about one—starting with the *New York Times* best-selling *Mother Bruce*, which received the E. B. White Read-Aloud Award and the Ezra Jack Keats New Illustrator Honor. He also wrote and illustrated *BE QUIET!*, *We Don't Eat Our Classmates*, *Santa Bruce*, *Bruce's Big Fun Day*, and *Peek-a-Bruce*. Ryan lives in Maine with his wife and kids . . . and too many pets.

Lily King, *Writers and Lovers*, Grove Atlantic

Blindsided by her mother's sudden death, and wrecked by a recent love affair, Casey Peabody has arrived in Massachusetts in the summer of 1997 without a plan. Her mail consists of wedding invitations and final notices from debt collectors. A former child golf prodigy, she now waits tables in Harvard Square and rents a tiny, moldy room at the side of a garage where she works on the novel she's been writing for six years. At thirty-one, Casey is still clutching onto something nearly all her old friends have let go of: the determination to live a creative life. When she falls for two very

different men at the same time, her world fractures even more. Casey's fight to fulfill her creative ambitions and balance the conflicting demands of art and life is challenged in ways that push her to the brink.

Lily King is the author of the novels *The Pleasing Hour*, *The English Teacher*, *Father of the Rain*, and *Euphoria*, one of the *New York Times Book Review's* 10 Best Books of 2014 and winner of the Kirkus Prize. She lives in Maine.

Rajani LaRocca, *Midsummer's Mayhem*, Little Bee Books

Eleven-year-old Mimi Mackson comes from a big Indian American family: Dad's a renowned food writer, Mom's a successful businesswoman, and her three older siblings all have their own respective accomplishments. It's easy to feel invisible in such an impressive family, but Mimi's dream of proving she's not the least-talented member of her family seems possible when she discovers a contest at the new bakery in town. But when Mimi's dad returns from a business trip, he's mysteriously lost his highly honed sense of taste. Mimi meets Vik, a boy who brings her to parts of the forest she's never seen. Together they discover exotic ingredients and bake them into delectable and enchanting treats. But as her dad acts stranger every day, and her siblings' romantic entanglements cause trouble in their town, Mimi begins to wonder whether the ingredients she and Vik found are somehow the cause of it all.

Rajani LaRocca was born in India, raised in Kentucky, and now lives in the Boston area with her wonderful family and impossibly cute dog. She earned a BA and an MD from Harvard, and spends her time writing novels and picture books, practicing medicine, and baking too many sweet treats. *Midsummer's Mayhem* is her first novel. Find her online at RajaniLaRocca.com and on Twitter and Instagram @rajanilarocca.

Ryan La Sala, *Reverie*, Fire

All Kane Montgomery knows for certain is that the police found him half-dead in the river. He can't remember how he got there, what happened after, and why his life seems so different now. And he has no idea why three classmates he barely knows are claiming to be his friends. As Kane pieces together clues, reality starts to rapidly come undone, turning the real world into dreamlike alternative worlds called reveries. Kane must join his new supposed friends to try to keep the reveries in check, especially when they realize that a sinister force is drawing power from them.

Ryan La Sala grew up in Connecticut, but only physically. Mentally, he spent most of his childhood in the worlds of *Sailor Moon* and *Xena: Warrior Princess*, which perhaps explains all the twirling. He studied Anthropology and Neuroscience at Northeastern University before becoming a project manager specialized in digital tools. He technically lives in New York City, but has actually transcended material reality and only takes up a human shell for special occasions, like brunch, and to watch anime (which is banned on the astral plane). *Reverie* is Ryan's debut novel. You

Oge Mora, *Saturday*, Little, Brown

In this heartfelt and universal story, a mother and daughter look forward to their special Saturday routine together every single week. But this Saturday, one thing after another goes wrong — ruining storytime, salon time, picnic time, and the puppet show they'd been looking forward to going to all week. Mom is nearing a meltdown...until her loving daughter reminds her that being together is the most important thing of all. Author-artist Oge Mora's highly anticipated follow up to Caldecott Honor *Thank You, Omu!* features the same magnificently radiant artwork and celebration of sharing so beloved in her debut picture book.

Oge Mora graduated from the Rhode Island School of Design with a BFA in illustration. Her first picture book, *Thank You, Omu!*, was a Caldecott Honor, a New York Times Notable Book and Editors' Choice, and a Junior Library Guild selection. Her illustration work is also featured in *Shaking Things Up: 14 Young Women Who Changed the World* by Susan Hood. She lives in Providence, Rhode Island.

Kate Elizabeth Russell, *My Dark Vanessa*, William Morrow

2000. Bright, ambitious, and yearning for adulthood, fifteen-year-old Vanessa Wye becomes entangled in an affair with Jacob Strane, her magnetic and guileful forty-two-year-old English teacher. 2017. Amid the rising wave of allegations against powerful men, a reckoning is coming due. Strane has been accused of sexual abuse by a former student, who reaches out to Vanessa, and now Vanessa suddenly finds herself facing an impossible choice: remain

silent, firm in the belief that her teenage self willingly engaged in this relationship, or redefine herself and the events of her past. But how can Vanessa reject her first love, the man who fundamentally transformed her and has been a persistent presence in her life? Is it possible that the man she loved as a teenager—and who professed to worship only her—may be far different from what she has always believed?

Kate Elizabeth Russell is originally from eastern Maine. She holds a PhD in creative writing from the University of Kansas and an MFA from Indiana University. Her work has appeared in *Hayden's Ferry Review*, *Mid-American Review*, and *Quarterly West*, among other journals, and has been nominated for a Pushcart Prize. She currently lives in Madison, Wisconsin. This is her first novel.

Alexis Schaitkin, *Saint X*, Celadon

Claire is only seven years old when her college-age sister, Alison, disappears on the last night of their family vacation at a resort on the Caribbean island of Saint X. Several days later, Alison's body is found in a remote spot on a nearby cay, and two local men—employees at the resort—are arrested. But the evidence is slim, the timeline against it, and the men are soon released. The story turns into national tabloid news, a lurid mystery that will go unsolved. Years later, Claire is living and working in New York City when a brief but fateful encounter brings her together with Clive Richardson, one of the men originally suspected of murdering her sister. It is a moment that sets Claire on an obsessive pursuit of the truth—not only to find out what happened the night of Alison's death but also to answer the elusive question: Who exactly was her sister?

Alexis Schaitkin's short stories and essays have appeared in *Ecotone*, *Southwest Review*, *The Southern Review*, *The New York Times*, and elsewhere. Her fiction has been anthologized in *The Best American Short Stories* and *The Best American Nonrequired Reading*. She received her MFA in fiction from the University of Virginia, where she was a Henry Hoyns Fellow. She lives in Williamstown, Massachusetts, with her husband and son. *Saint X* is her debut novel.

Victoria Schwab, *Tunnel of Bones*, Scholastic

The thrilling sequel to Victoria Schwab's *New York Times* bestselling *City of Ghosts*! Trouble is haunting Cassidy Blake . . . even more than usual. She (plus her ghost best friend, Jacob, of course) are in Paris, where Cass's parents are filming their TV show about the world's most haunted cities. Sure, it's fun eating croissants and seeing the Eiffel Tower, but there's true ghostly danger lurking *beneath* Paris, in the creepy underground Catacombs.

Victoria Schwab is the #1 *New York Times* bestselling author of more than a dozen novels for readers of all ages, including *City of Ghosts*, the Shades of Magic series (which has been translated into over 15 languages), *This Savage Song*, and *Our Dark Duet*. Victoria can often be found haunting Paris streets and trudging up Scottish hillsides. Usually, she's tucked in the corner of a coffee shop, dreaming up stories.

Julia Spencer-Fleming, *Hid From Our Eyes*, Minotaur

1952. Millers Kill Police Chief Harry McNeil is called to a crime scene where a woman in a party dress has been murdered with no obvious cause of death. 1972. Millers Kill Police Chief Jack Liddle is called to a murder scene of a woman that's very similar to one he worked as a trooper in the 50s. The only difference is this time, they have a suspect. Young Vietnam War veteran Russ van Alstyne found the body while riding his motorcycle and is quickly pegged as the prime focus of the investigation. Present-day. Millers Kill Police Chief Russ van Alstyne gets a 911 call that a young woman has been found dead in a party dress, the same MO as the crime he was accused of in the 70s. The pressure is on for Russ to solve the murder before he's removed from the case.

Julia Spencer-Fleming is *The New York Times* bestselling author of *One Was A Soldier*, and an Agatha, Anthony, Dilys, Barry, Macavity, and Gumshoe Award winner. She studied acting and history at Ithaca College and received her J.D. at the University of Maine School of Law. Her books have been shortlisted for the Edgar, Nero Wolfe, and Romantic Times RC awards. Julia lives in a 190-year-old farmhouse in southern Maine.

Suzanne Staubach, *A Garden Miscellany*, Timber Press

Gardens across the globe come in many sizes and styles, but they share a remarkable number of similar components. Suzanne Staubach revels in this connection in *A Garden Miscellany*. In short essays meant to be dipped in and out of, Staubach shares the history, evolution, and contemporary use of all the parts and pieces that make up a home garden. Featuring bold and whimsical illustrations by Julia Yellow and filled with interesting facts and anecdotes, *A Garden Miscellany* is a must-have for gardeners, plant lovers, and the naturally curious everywhere.

Suzanne Staubach writes, pots, and gardens in northeast Connecticut. After a long career in independent bookselling, she now writes and speaks about garden and ceramic history, and sells her handmade pottery nationwide. She is the author of three previous books.

Richard Stengel, *Information Wars*, Atlantic Monthly Press

In a narrative that is by turns dramatic and eye-opening, *Information Wars* walks readers through of the frustrating battle against disinformation. Stengel moves through Russia and Ukraine, Saudi Arabia and Iraq, and introduces characters from Putin to Hillary Clinton, John Kerry and Mohamed bin Salman to show how disinformation is impacting our global society. He illustrates how ISIS terrorized the world using social media, and how the Russians launched a tsunami of disinformation around the annexation of Crimea – a scheme that became the model for their interference with the 2016 presidential election. An urgent book for our times, *Information Wars* stresses that we must find a way to combat this ever growing threat to democracy.

Richard Stengel was the Under Secretary of State for Public Diplomacy and Public Affairs from 2013-2016. Before working at the State Department, he was the Editor of TIME for seven years, from 2006-2013. From 1992 to 1994, he collaborated with Nelson Mandela on the South African leader's autobiography *Long Walk to Freedom*. Stengel later wrote *Mandela's Way*, a *New York Times* best-seller, on his experience working with Mandela. He is the author of several other books, including *January Sun*, a book about life in a small South African town as well as *You're Too Kind: A Brief History of Flattery*. He is an NBC/MSNBC analyst and lives in New York.

Laura E. Weymouth, *A Treason of Thorns*, HarperTeen

Violet Sterling has spent the last seven years in exile, longing to return to Burleigh House. One of the six Great Houses of England, Burleigh's magic kept both the countryside and Violet happy. That is, until her father's treason destroyed everything. Now she's been given a chance to return home. But Burleigh isn't what she remembered. Wild with grief, Burleigh's very soul is crying out in pain. As its tormented magic ravages the countryside, Vi must decide how far she's willing to go to save her House—before her House destroys everything she's ever known.

Laura E. Weymouth lives at the edge of the woods in western New York, along with her husband, two wild-hearted daughters, a spoiled cat, and an indeterminate number of chickens. She is also the author of critically-acclaimed *The Light Between Worlds*.

Laura Zigman, *Separation Anxiety*, Ecco

Life hasn't gone according to Judy's plan. Her career as a children's book author offered a glimpse of success before taking an embarrassing nose dive. Teddy, now a teenager, treats her with some combination of mortification and indifference. Her best friend is dying. And her husband, Gary, has become a pot-addled professional "snackologist" who she can't afford to divorce. On top of it all, she has a painfully ironic job writing articles for a self-help website—a poor fit for someone seemingly incapable of helping herself. Judy never intended to start wearing the dog. But when she stumbled across her son Teddy's old baby sling during a halfhearted basement cleaning, something in her snapped. So: the dog went into the sling, Judy felt connected to another living being, and she's repeated the process every day since...

Laura Zigman is the author of *Animal Husbandry* (which was made into the movie *Someone Like You*, starring Hugh Jackman and Ashley Judd), *Dating Big Bird*, *Piece of Work*, and *Her*. She has been a contributor to the *New York Times*, the *Washington Post*, and the Huffington Post, produced a popular online series of animated videos called *Annoying Conversations*, and was the recipient of a Yaddo residency. She lives in Cambridge, Massachusetts, with her husband, son, and deeply human Sheltie.

Children's Breakfast

Kate Messner, *Chirp*, Bloomsbury

When Mia moves to Vermont the summer after seventh grade, she's recovering from the broken arm she got falling off a balance beam. Packed away in the moving boxes under her clothes and gymnastics trophies is a secret she'd rather forget. Mia's change in scenery brings day camps, new friends, and time with her beloved grandmother. But Gram is convinced someone is out to destroy her cricket farm. Is it sabotage or is Gram's thinking impaired from the stroke she suffered months ago?

Kate Messner is a former middle-school English teacher and the author of E. B. White Read Aloud Award winner *The Brilliant Fall of Gianna Z.* and its companion, *The Exact Location of Home*; *Sugar and Ice*; *Eye of the Storm*; *Wake Up Missing*; *All the Answers*; *The Seventh Wish*; *Breakout*; *Capture the Flag*; *Hide and Seek*; the Marty McGuire chapter book series; the Ranger in Time chapter book series; and several picture books. She lives on Lake Champlain with her husband and two kids. When she's not reading or writing, she loves hiking, kayaking, biking, and watching thunderstorms over the lake.

Jessie Sima, *Spencer's New Pet*, Simon & Schuster

When Spencer gets a new pet, he's excited to do all the things that pets do—taking walks in the park, going to the vet, and attending parties together. There's just one hitch: Spencer's new pet is a balloon. And that means No. Sharp. Objects. No drooling dogs at the park. No prickly porcupines at the vet. And absolutely *no* pinning tails on *any* donkeys! *Spencer's New Pet* is a story of pure fun about a boy, his dog, and a friendship that endures life's sharpest...and most unexpected twists.

Jessie Sima is an author/illustrator living and working in New York City. She grew up in a small town in Southern New Jersey, unaware that she was a storyteller. Once she figured it out, she told her family and friends. They took it quite well. She is the author of *Not Quite Narwhal*; *Harriet Gets Carried Away*; *Love, Z*; and *Spencer's New Pet*.

Renee Watson, *Some Places More than Others*, Bloomsbury

All Amara wants is to visit her father's family in Harlem. Her wish comes true when her dad decides to bring her along on a business trip. She can't wait to finally meet her extended family and stay in the brownstone where her dad grew up. Plus, she wants to visit every landmark from the Apollo to Langston Hughes's home. But her family, and even the city, is not quite what Amara thought. Her dad doesn't speak to her grandpa, and the crowded streets can be suffocating as well as inspiring. But as she learns more and more about Harlem—and her father's history—Amara realizes how, in some ways more than others, she can connect with this other home and family.

Renee Watson is the Newbery Honor and Coretta Scott King Author Award-winning author of the novels *Piecing Me Together* as well as *This Side of Home*, *What Momma Left Me*, *Betty Before X*, co-written with Ilyasah Shabazz, and two picture books: *Harlem's Little Blackbird* and *A Place Where Hurricanes Happen*. Renée is the founder of I, Too, Arts Collective, a nonprofit committed to nurturing underrepresented voices in the creative arts. She lives in New York City.

Author Breakfast

Samantha Power, *The Education of an Idealist*, HarperCollins

In her memoir, Power offers an urgent response to the question "What can one person do?"—and a call for a clearer eye, a kinder heart, and a more open and civil hand in our politics and daily lives. *The Education of an Idealist* traces Power's distinctly American journey from immigrant to war correspondent to presidential Cabinet official. In 2005, her critiques of US foreign policy caught the eye of newly elected senator Barack Obama, who invited her to work with him on Capitol Hill and then on his presidential campaign. After Obama was elected president, Power went from being an activist outsider to a government insider, navigating the halls of power while trying to put her ideals into practice. She served for four years as Obama's human rights adviser, and in 2013, he named her US Ambassador to the United Nations, the youngest American to assume the role.

Samantha Power is the Anna Lindh Professor of the Practice of Global Leadership and Public Policy at Harvard Kennedy School and the William D. Zabel Professor of Practice in Human Rights at Harvard Law School. From 2013 to 2017, Power served in the Cabinet of President Barack Obama and as US Ambassador to the United Nations. From 2009 to 2013, Power worked on the National Security Council as Special Assistant to the President for Multilateral Affairs and Human Rights. Power began her career as a journalist reporting from countries including Bosnia, East Timor, Rwanda, and Sudan, and she has been named by *TIME* as one of the world's 100 Most Influential People and by *Forbes* as one of the World's 100 Most Powerful Women. She immigrated to the United States from Ireland as a child, and lives in Massachusetts with her husband, Cass Sunstein, and their two children.

Aarti Namdev Shahani, *Here We Are*, Celadon

Here We Are: American Dreams, American Nightmares follows the lives of Aarti, the precocious scholarship kid at one of Manhattan's most elite prep schools, and her dad, the shopkeeper who mistakenly sells watches and calculators to the notorious Cali drug cartel. Together, the two represent the extremes that coexist in our country, even within a single family, and a truth about immigrants that gets lost in the headlines. It isn't a matter of good or evil; it's complicated. Ultimately, *Here We Are* is a coming-of-age story, a love letter from an outspoken modern daughter to her soft-spoken Old World father. She never expected they'd become best friends.

Aarti Namdev Shahani is the author of memoir *Here We Are: American Dreams, American Nightmares*. She is a Technology Correspondent for NPR based in Silicon Valley. She has received awards from the Society of Professional Journalists, a regional Edward R. Murrow Award, and an Investigative Reporters & Editors Award. Before journalism, she was a community organizer in New York City, helping prisoners and families facing deportation. Shahani received a Master's in Public Policy from Harvard's Kennedy School of Government and a bachelor's degree in anthropology from the University of Chicago. She was the youngest recipient of the Charles H. Revson Fellowship at Columbia University and is an alumna of A Better Chance, Inc. Shahani grew up in Flushing, Queens—in the most diverse zip code in the country—and believes every American should visit her hometown to understand what makes America great.

Jon Clinch, *Marley*, Atria Books

"Marley was dead, to begin with," Charles Dickens tells us at the beginning of *A Christmas Carol*. But in Jon Clinch's ingenious novel, Jacob Marley, business partner to Ebenezer Scrooge, is very much alive: a rapacious and cunning boy who grows up to be a forger, a scoundrel, and the man who will be both the making and the undoing of Scrooge.

Jon Clinch's first novel, *Finn*—the secret history of Huckleberry Finn's father—was named an American Library Association Notable Book and was chosen as one of the year's best books by *The Washington Post*, the *Chicago Tribune*, and *The Christian Science Monitor*. It won the Philadelphia Athenaeum Literary Award and was shortlisted for the Center for Fiction's First Novel Prize. His second novel, *Kings of the Earth*, was named a best book of the year by *The Washington Post* and led the 2010 Summer Reading List at *O, The Oprah Magazine*. In 2008, he organized a benefit reading for the financially ailing Twain House, an event that literally saved the house from bankruptcy. A native of upstate New York, Jon lives with his wife in the Green Mountains of Vermont.

Nikki Grimes, *Ordinary Hazards*, Boyd Mills Press

Growing up with a mother suffering from paranoid schizophrenia and a mostly absent father, Nikki Grimes found herself terrorized by babysitters, shunted from foster family to foster family, and preyed upon by those she trusted. At the age of six, she poured her pain onto a piece of paper late one night - and discovered the magic and impact of writing. For many years, Nikki's notebooks were her most enduing companions. In this accessible and inspiring memoir that will resonate with young readers and adults alike, Nikki shows how the power of those words helped her conquer the hazards - ordinary and extraordinary - of her life.

New York Times best-selling author Nikki Grimes is the recipient of the Children's Literature Legacy Award, the Virginia Hamilton Literary Award, and the NCTE Award for Excellence in Poetry for Children. Her books include the ALA Notable Book and NCTE Notable Novel in Verse *Garvey's Choice*, Coretta Scott King Author Award winner *Bronx Masquerade*, and Coretta Scott King Author Honor books *Jazmin's Notebook*, *Talkin' About Bessie*, *Dark Sons*, *Words with Wings*, and *The Road to Paris*. She is also the creator of the popular *Meet Danitra Brown*.

Luncheon

Erin Morgenstern, *The Starless Sea*, Penguin Random House

Zachary Ezra Rawlins is a graduate student in Vermont when he discovers a mysterious book hidden in the stacks. As he turns the pages, entranced by tales of lovelorn prisoners, key collectors, and nameless acolytes, he reads something strange: a story from his own childhood. Bewildered by this inexplicable book and desperate to make sense of how his own life came to be recorded, Zachary uncovers a series of clues—a bee, a key, and a sword—that lead him to a masquerade party in New York, to a secret club, and through a doorway to an ancient library hidden far below the surface of the earth. What Zachary finds in this curious place is more than just a buried home for books and their guardians—it is a place of lost cities and seas, lovers who pass notes under doors and across time, and of stories whispered by the dead. Zachary learns of those who have sacrificed much to protect this realm, relinquishing their sight and their tongues to preserve this archive, and also of those who are intent on its destruction. Together with Mirabel, a fierce, pink-haired protector of the place, and Dorian, a handsome, barefoot man with shifting alliances, Zachary travels the twisting tunnels, darkened stairwells, crowded ballrooms, and sweetly soaked shores of this magical world, discovering his purpose—in both the mysterious book and in his own life.

Erin Morgenstern is the author of *The Night Circus*, a #1 national best seller that has been sold around the world and translated into thirty-seven languages. She has a degree in theater from Smith College and lives in Massachusetts.