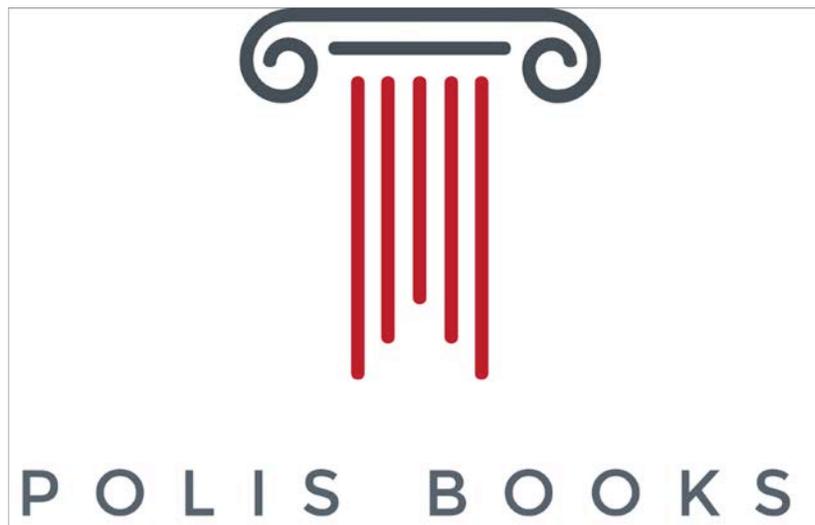
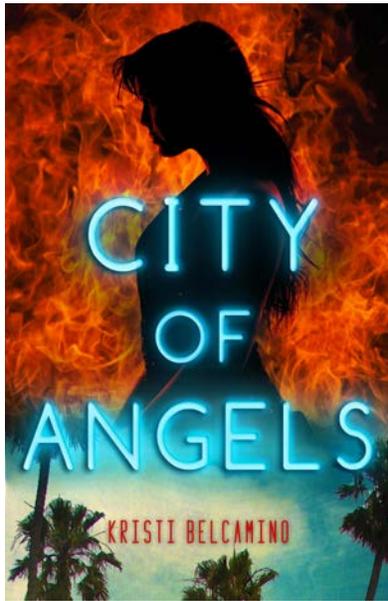


Polis Books

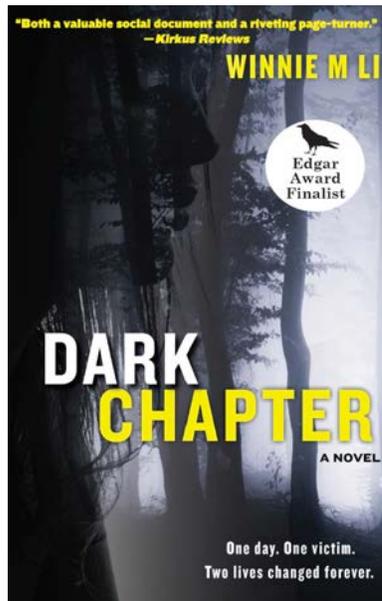
2018-2019
Fall-Spring
Catalog



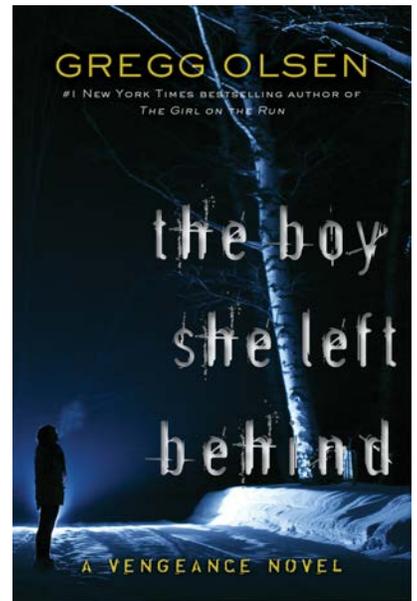
2018 Polis Books Award nominees



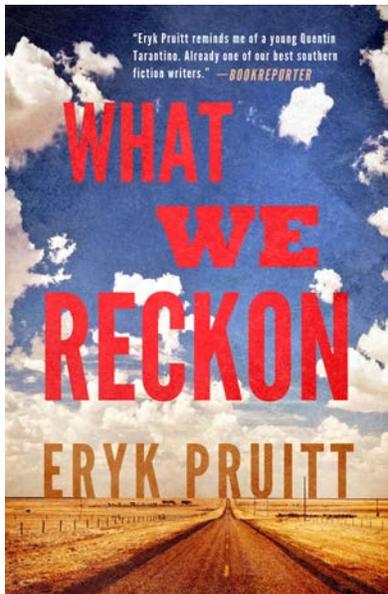
Agatha Award Nominee
Best Young Adult Novel



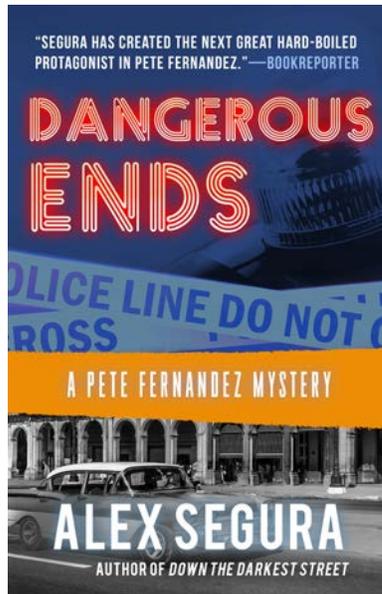
Edgar Award Nominee
Best First Novel



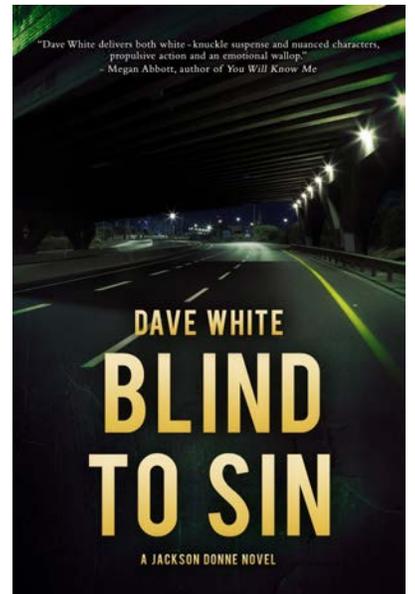
Thriller Award Nominee
Best Young Adult Novel



Anthony Award Nominee
Best Paperback Original



Anthony Award Nominee
Bill Crider Award
Best Novel in a Series



David Award Nominee
Best Mystery Novel

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BLACK DIAMOND FALL

Joseph Olshan

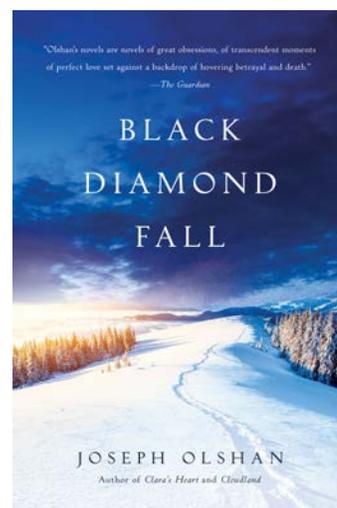
Fiction/Mystery

Publication Date: September 18, 2018

\$26.00 / \$33.99CAN • Hardcover • 304 pages • 5.5 x 8.5

ISBN: 1-978-947993-34-1

Rights Available: World, audio



“(A) stunning literary thriller...As much an engrossing and rich examination of the consequences of desire as it is a painstakingly and sublimely constructed mystery.”

–*Booklist* (Starred Review)

"Joseph Olshan succeeds in crafting an enthralling mystery...a well-written, imaginatively construed mystery set in a wonderfully conjured up wintry Vermont college town. A thoroughly enjoyable five-star read." –*New York Journal of Books*

From the acclaimed author of *CLARA'S HEART* and *CLOUDLAND* comes a rich, literary mystery based and united by two real events. When young Luc Flanders disappears, the police department in Middlebury, Vermont are divided in their assessment of what fate befell him. Some feel that Flanders went off the grid by choice. Others, including detectives Nick Jenkins and Helen Kennedy, suspect foul play. As the search for Flanders intensifies, the detectives turn their gaze to Sam Solomon, an older man with whom Luc has been having a secret relationship, and cannot prove his whereabouts during the hours when Flanders disappeared.

And when the Robert Frost house is vandalized, the detectives discover that there may be a link between the events which they are determined to discover. *BLACK DIAMOND FALL* is at once a lush, evocative literary novel, a portrait of love between a younger and older man, and a riveting mystery that could only come from the mind of acclaimed writer Joseph Olshan.

Joseph Olshan is the award-winning author of ten novels, including *Cloudland*, *Nightswimming*, *Clara's Heart*, and *The Conversion*. He is the Editorial Director of Delphinium Books, and spends most of the year in Vermont.

THE BLUE KINGFISHER

Erica Wright

Fiction/Mystery

Publication Date: October 9, 2018

\$26.00 / \$33.99 CAN • Hardcover • 288 pages • 5.5 x 8.5

ISBN: 1-978-947992-26-6

Rights Available: North America, audio



"Fascinating and fully developed characters lift Wright's intriguing third Kat Stone mystery...Wright's vividly told tale is studded with wry wit." —*Publishers Weekly*

What happens when a master of disguise tries to be herself for once? If you're private investigator Kat Stone, trouble seems to find you with or without your favorite wig.

Kat knows she's living on borrowed time, waiting for her violent past to catch up with her. Still, she doesn't expect men to start falling from the sky. On a desolate morning in Fort Washington Park, Kat discovers the body of her building's French expat maintenance man atop the Jeffrey's Hook Lighthouse. The NYPD is quick to dismiss his death as suicide, another lost soul leaping from the bridge overhead. Kat is less than convinced, especially when she learns about his dangerous side hustle, finding jobs for immigrant members of their community.

Her investigation turns up unexpected connections to Manhattan's tony art world, not to mention a host of dark superstitions. When she goes undercover with a deep-sea fishing company, she gets a little too cozy with a colorful cast of characters and a couple of jellyfish. Will she find his killer before her past drags her under? From one of the most acclaimed new mystery writers working today comes a riveting novel of suspense that will have you guessing until the last page is turned.

"This new PI has got a smart mouth on her, and plenty of wigs to help her find her own true character." —*The New York Times Book Review on The Red Chameleon*

Erica Wright's debut crime novel *The Red Chameleon* was one of *The Oprah Magazine's* Best Books of Summer 2014. Her previous novel, *The Granite Moth*, was called "brisk, dark, slinky" by *USA Today* and was a 2016 Silver Falchion Award Finalist. She is also the author of two poetry collections, *Instructions for Killing the Jackal* and *All the Bayou Stories End with Drowned*. She is a senior editor at *Guernica Magazine* as well as an editorial board member for Alice James Books. She grew up in Wartrace, TN and received her B.A. from New York University and her M.F.A. from Columbia University. She now lives in Washington, DC. Visit her online at www.ericawright.org or @eawright.

TOWNIES

And Other Stories of Southern Mischief

Eryk Pruitt

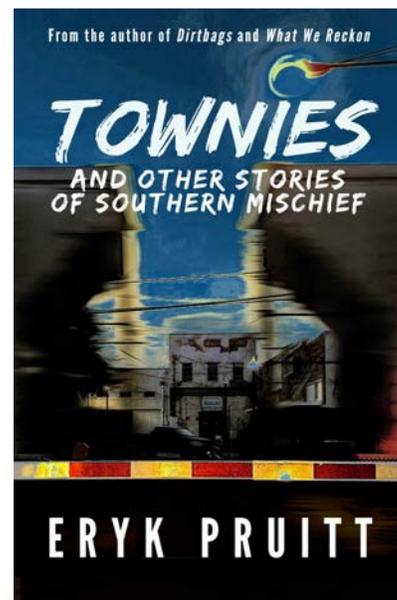
Fiction/Short Stories

Publication Date: October 16, 2018

\$16.00 • Trade paperback • 288 pages • 5.5 x 8.5

ISBN: 1-978-947993-35-8

Rights Available: World, audio



“A masterly storyteller, Pruitt pulls the reader into a world that zings with authenticity and life. A sterling collection.” —*Publishers Weekly* (Starred Review)

A collection of riveting, funny, and captivating southern fried crime stories from Anthony Award nominee Eryk Pruitt, one of the best new crime fiction writers working today. *Townies, and Other Tales of Southern Mischief* collects, for the first time, Pruitt's short fiction in a single volume.

The title story, "Townies," details what really happened one night, after hours, in a once popular East Texas sports bar, and the sinister revenge that would soon follow. "Knacker," the story of a Texan who finds himself homeless in Dublin, Ireland, and willing to sacrifice damn near anything to scratch together what remaining pride he may have lost. "Let's Be Awful" tells the story of a cocktail waitress who decides that, after a horrid round of revenge porn, her days of playing the victim have past. In "A Lot Prettier (When You Smile)," we are introduced to a woman who can wrap any man around her finger and decides to put that powerful skill to use one last time. When a black sheep son comes home to his sick momma's deathbed in "The Only Hell My Momma Ever Raised," he discovers long lost family secrets, as well as how he can use his own set of skills to give her a proper send off.

These and other stories will have you turning the pages to read more of one of the most unique voices and brightest up-and-coming talents in southern fiction.

"Hardboiled honey packed with razor blades and dynamite, strange and leanly written, and tossed into a tornado...the insane love child of James Cain and Jim Thompson, a modern piece of folk lore covered in gasoline and set on fire. This baby rocks like a motel bed during a cheap honeymoon. You need it."

—Joe R. Lansdale, author of *HAP & LEONARD* on *WHAT WE RECKON*

Eryk Pruitt wrote and produced the short film *FOODIE* which won eight awards at over sixteen film festivals. His fiction has appeared in *The Avalon Literary Review*, *Thuglit*, *Pulp Modern*, and *Zymbol*, among others, and he was a finalist for the Derringer Award. He is the author of the novels *DIRTBAGS*, *HASHTAG*, and *WHAT WE RECKON*, with was nominated for the Anthony Award. He is the host of the popular true crime podcast: *The Long Dance*. He lives in Durham, NC with his wife Lana and their cat Busey. Follow him at @ReverendEryk.

A SPELL OF MURDER

A Witch Cats of Cambridge Mystery

Clea Simon

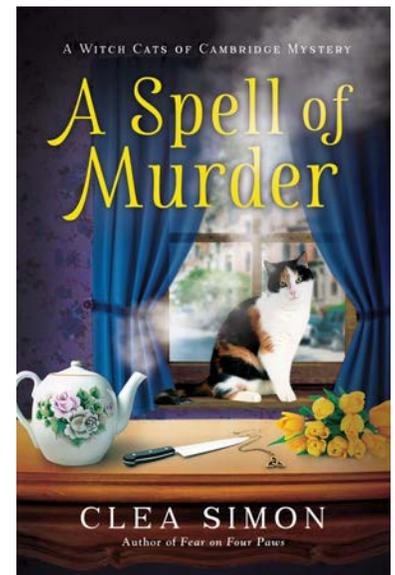
Fiction/Mystery/Cozy

Publication Date: December 11, 2018

\$26.00 / \$20.99 CAN • Hardcover • 320 pages • 5.5 x 8.5

ISBN: 1-978-947993-32-7

Rights Available: World, audio



“A delightful series debut that will cast a spell on you...an entertaining cozy read that kept me guessing to the end.”

—Diane A.S. Stuckart, bestselling author of the Tarot Cats Mysteries

The first book in a bewitching new series!

“It’s Harriet’s fault. It’s always her fault, not that she’ll ever admit it.”

So begins *A Spell of Murder*, the first in a new series that mixes feline fiction with a touch of the paranormal, and a little romance as well. Becca, newly single and newly unemployed, wants to believe she has psychic powers. With nothing but time – and a desire for empowerment – she’s studying to become a witch. What she doesn’t know is that her three cats – Harriet, Laurel, and Clara – are the ones with the real power. And when Harriet – “a cream-colored longhair with more fur than commonsense” – conjures a pillow for her own comfort, Becca believes her spells are finally working.

Could that be why Trent, the coven’s devilishly handsome leader, has been showing her special attention? Or why Suzanne, a longtime coven member, draws her aside to share a secret – a confidence that may lead to murder? Funny, mysterious, and more than a little magical, *A Spell of Murder* will have you rooting for these three feisty felines and their plucky owner and coming back for more!

A former journalist and music critic, **Clea Simon** wrote three nonfiction books, including the *Boston Globe* bestseller *The Feline Mystique*, before turning to a life of crime (fiction). Her more than two dozen mysteries usually involve cats or rock and roll, or some combination thereof. A native of New York, she moved to Massachusetts to attend Harvard and now lives nearby in Somerville. Visit her at www.CleaSimon.com or at [@CleaSimon](https://twitter.com/CleaSimon).

MIRACULUM

Steph Post

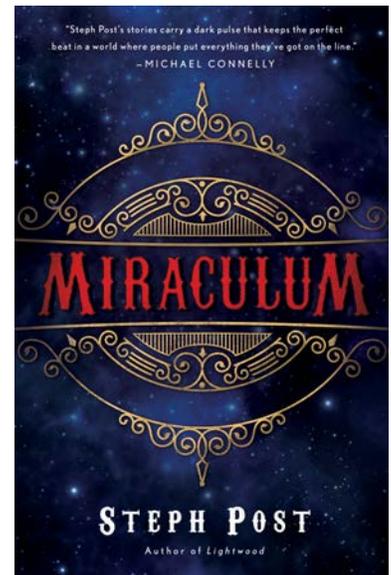
Fiction/Literary

Publication Date: January 15, 2019

\$26.00 / \$24.50 CAN • Hardcover • 352 pages • 5.5 x 8.5

ISBN: 1-978-947993-41-9

Rights Available: World English



“Steph Post’s stories carry a dark pulse that keeps the perfect beat in a world where people put everything they’ve got on the line. *Walk in the Fire* is going to put her on the map.”

—Michael Connelly

“Sizzling...Post has a real knack for creating a complex plot that maintains its drive through sweat-slicked settings that range from raucous Daytona Beach strip clubs to the kind of lonesome roads where nothing good happens.” —*Tampa Bay Times* on *Walk in the Fire*

The year is 1922. The carnival is Pontilliar’s Spectacular Star Light Miraculum, set up on the Texas-Louisiana border. One blazing summer night, a mysterious stranger steps out onto the midway, lights a cigarette and forever changes the world around him.

Tattooed snake charmer Ruby has traveled with her father’s carnival for most of her life and, jaded though she is, can’t help but be drawn to the tall man in the immaculate black suit who has joined the carnival as a geek, a man who bites the heads off live chickens. Mercurial and charismatic, Daniel charms everyone he encounters but his manipulation of Ruby becomes complicated when it no longer becomes clear who is holding all the cards. For all of Daniel’s secrets, Ruby has a few of her own.

When one tragedy after another strikes the carnival, and it becomes clear that Daniel is somehow at the center of calamity, Ruby takes it upon herself to discover the mystery of the shadowy man pulling all the strings. Joined by Hayden, a roughneck-turned-mural-painter who has recently reentered her life, Ruby enters into a dangerous, eye-opening game with Daniel in which nothing and no one is as it seems and yet everything is at stake. *Miraculum* is an unforgettable novel that is part Southern Gothic, part Noir, part Magical Realism, and all Steph Post.

Steph Post is the author of two acclaimed Judah Cannon novels: *Lightwood* and *Walk in the Fire*, as well as *A Tree Born Crooked*, which was nominated for the Big Moose Prize. She is a recipient of the Patricia Cornwell Scholarship for creative writing from Davidson College and the Vereen Bell writing award. Her fiction has appeared in *Stephen King’s Contemporary Classics* and many other outlets. Her story, *The Pallid Mask*, was nominated for a Pushcart Prize. She lives in Brooksville, Florida. Visit her at stephpostfiction.com or [@StephPostAuthor](https://twitter.com/StephPostAuthor).

TAKE-OUT

And Other Tales of Culinary Crime

Rob Hart

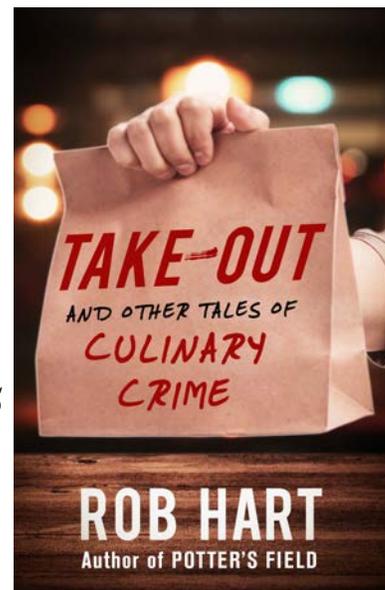
Fiction/Short Stories

Publication Date: January 22, 2019

\$16.00 / \$20.99 CAN • Trade Paperback • 288 pages • 5.5 x 8.5

ISBN: 1-978-947993-42-6

Rights Available: North America, audio



"Hart is a master storyteller who can make a city into just as vital as any flesh and blood character." —**Brian Panowich, author of BULL MOUNTAIN**

"One of the best books of the summer...The Woman From Prague has great pace, a fascinating relationship between the central characters, and superb atmosphere."
—**Publishers Weekly (Starred Review) on THE WOMAN FROM PRAGUE**

Rob Hart has firmly established himself as one of the best crime writers of his generation with his acclaimed Ash McKenna series, and in TAKE-OUT Hart has collected 18 stories of culinary crime and noir that will have you savoring every deadly bite.

In the title story, a gambler falls into debt with the enigmatic owner of a Chinatown gambling parlor, and must run odd—and sometimes dangerous—deliveries to clear his ledger. In "How to Make the Perfect New York Bagel," the owner of one of New York City's last old-school bagel shops has to defend his storefront—in the past, from the mob, and in the present, from a bank. In "Creampuff," a bakery with the hottest pastry in town has to hire a bouncer to control the unruly line, with tragic results.

In these stories and more, some never before published, Rob Hart explores the enticing and dangerous intersection where food and hospitality cross paths with crime and noir. Some stories are funny. Some of are dark. But each one will leaving you wanting another bite.

Rob Hart is the author of five acclaimed Ash McKenna novels: NEW YORKED, CITY OF ROSE, SOUTH VILLAGE, THE WOMAN FROM PRAGUE, and POTTER'S FIELD. His next novel, THE WARHEOUSE, has been sold in over 18 countries and is being developed as a feature film by Ron Howard. He lives in New York City. Find him online at @robwhart and www.robwhart.com.

THE CARETAKER'S WIFE

Vincent Zandri

Fiction/Suspense

Publication Date: February 26, 2019

\$26.00/ \$33.99 CAN • Hardcover • 288 pages • 5.5 x 8.5

ISBN: 1-978-943997-34-0

Rights Available: World, audio



From New York Times and USA Today bestselling and Thriller and Shamua Award-winning author Vincent Zandri comes a diabolical novel of domestic suspense that will have readers of *The Wife Between Us* and *The Couple Next Door* turning pages long into the night.

When a novelist loses everything, he leaves the comforts of his own home in order to finish his latest book, give him some peace of mind, and restart his fractured life. But what he doesn't expect is the attraction that ignites between him and the wife of the resort owner where he's staying. And what begins as a torrid affair turns into something much more sinister...

Praise for the novels of Vincent Zandri

"Gritty, fast-paced, lyrical and haunting." —Harlan Coben on *The Innocent*

"Zandri demonstrates an uncanny knack for exposition, introducing new characters and narrative possibilities with the confidence of an old pro...Zandri does a superb job creating interlocking puzzle pieces." —New York Post

"Readers will be held captive by prose that pounds as steadily as an elevated pulse...Vincent Zandri nails readers attention." —Boston Herald

"The action never wanes." —Fort Lauderdale Sun-Sentinel

Vincent Zandri is the *New York Times* and *USA Today* bestselling author of more than twenty novels, and won both the 2015 Thriller Award and Shamus Award for his novel *Moonlight Weeps*. A freelance photojournalist and solo traveler, he is the founder of the blog The Vincent Zandri Vox. He lives in Albany, New York. Visit him online at www.vincentzandri.com or on Twitter at @VincentZandri.

FINDING KATERINA M.

Elisabeth Elo

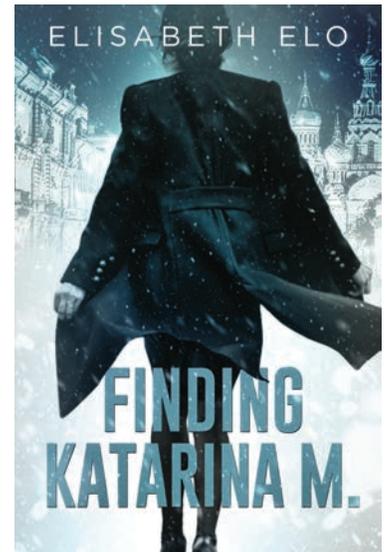
Fiction/Thriller

Publication Date: March 19, 2019

\$26.99 / \$35.99 CAN • Hardcover • 352 pages • 6 x 9

ISBN: 1-978-943818-43-3

Rights Available: World English, audio



“An utterly riveting debut thriller! Pirio Kasparov is one of the best protagonists I've read in years, tough, cynical, wry and compelling.” —**Lisa Gardner** on *North of Boston*

"Set on the gritty Boston waterfront, *North of Boston* starts off as a murder mystery and slowly builds into something larger and more disturbing...a gripping and unorthodox thriller, packed with intriguing characters and unexpected twists." —**Tom Perrotta**, *New York Times* bestselling author of *The Leftovers*

Natalie March is a respected surgeon in Washington DC. Her mother, Vera March, is a Russian immigrant and MS patient still haunted by the fact that her Ukrainian parents, innocent of any wrongdoing, were sent to the gulag, Stalin's notorious network of labor camps. All her life Vera has presumed that they perished there along with millions of other Russian citizens.

When a young Russian dancer named Saldana Tarasova comes to Natalie's office claiming to be her cousin, and providing details about her grandmother that no stranger could know, Natalie must face a surprising truth: her grandmother, Katarina Melnikova, is still very much alive. She escaped from the labor camp, married a native Siberian, and had another child, Saldana's mother. Natalie is thrilled to think that her Russian family is reaching out and that Vera may be able to reunite with her mother after so many years. But Saldana has a darker motive, and Natalie finds herself drawn into a web of family secrets that will ultimately pit her against Russian security forces and even her own government.

How far will Natalie go to find Katerina M. and satisfy her mother's deepest wish? How much will she risk to protect her Russian family—and her own country—from a dangerous international threat? Masterfully plotted and beautifully written, *FINDING KATARINA M.* takes the reader on an extraordinary journey across Siberia—to reindeer herding camps, Russian prisons, Sakha villages, and parties with endless vodka toasts—while it explores what it means to be loyal to one's family, one's country, and ultimately to oneself.

Elisabeth Elo grew up in Boston. She has worked as an editor, an advertising copywriter, a high-tech project manager, and a halfway house counselor, and now teaches writing in the Boston area. Her essays and short stories have appeared in a variety of publications. She resides in Brookline, Massachusetts. She is the author of the acclaimed novel *NORTH OF BOSTON*. Learn more at www.elisabethelo.com.

THE 45TH

D.W. Buffa

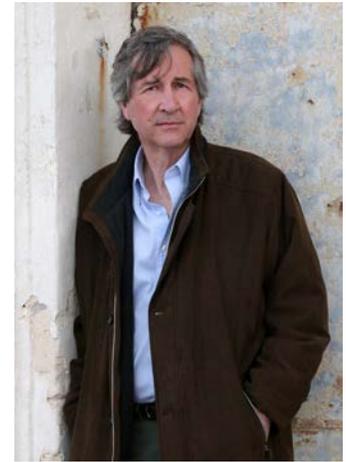
Fiction/Political Thriller

Publication Date: April 23, 2019

\$26.95 / \$34.99 CAN • Hardcover • 352 pages • 6 x9

ISBN: 1-978-943818-53-2

Rights Available: World, audio



The riveting new thriller from bestselling, Edgar Award nominee D.W. Buffa that's as timely as this morning's news, taking you inside the nation's corridors of power and into the most controversial presidency in the history of the country...

Praise for the novels of D.W. Buffa

"Buffa's characters are compelling; the dialogue authentic and well crafted. Highly recommended for lovers of legal and political thrillers." —*Library Journal* (Starred Review)

"Expect NECESSITY to appear on numerous "Best of" lists, both because of and in spite of what it is. One cannot walk away from a Buffa novel without feeling educated to at least some extent and entertained to the fullest." —*Bookreporter*

"In the grand tradition of courtroom thrillers, there's a whopper of a reveal as the last witness is called. Fans of political thrillers and courtroom dramas, as well as those who can't get enough of the latest headlines, will race through this one." —*Booklist*

"An accomplished first novel... it ends with a couple of twists that are really shocking. And it leaves you wanting to go back to the beginning and read it again." —*The New York Times on The Defense*

"Buffa's spare observation, crackling dialogue, and shadowy circle of criminals, lawyers, and lovers keep you riveted." —*Entertainment Weekly*

"A Dan Brown read-alike tailor-made for an election year." —*Booklist on Hillary*

D.W. Buffa was born in San Francisco and raised in the Bay Area. After graduation from Michigan State University, he studied under Leo Strauss, Joseph Cropsey and Hans J. Morgenthau at the University of Chicago where he earned both an M.A. and a Ph. D. in political science. He received his J.D. degree from Wayne State University in Detroit. Buffa was a criminal defense attorney for 10 years. The New York Times called *The Defense* 'an accomplished first novel' and *The Judgment* was nominated for the Edgar Award for best novel. D.W. Buffa lives in Northern California. You can visit his Official Website at dwbuffa.net.

ONCE MORE UNTO THE BREACH

Meghan Holloway

Fiction/Historical Thriller

Publication Date: May 14, 2019

\$16.00 / \$20.99 CAN • Trade Paperback • 320 pages • 5.5 x 8.5

ISBN: 1-978-947993-60-0

Rights Available: World, audio



For readers of *The Nightingale* and *Beneath a Scarlet Sky* comes a gripping historical thriller set against a fully-realized WWII backdrop about the love a father has for his son and the lengths he is willing to go to find him, from a talented new voice in the field.

Rhys Gravenor, Great War veteran and Welsh sheep farmer, arrives in Paris in the midst of the city's liberation with a worn letter in his pocket that may have arrived years too late. As he follows the footsteps of his missing son across an unfamiliar, war-torn country, he struggles to come to terms with the incident that drove a wedge between the two of them.

Joined by Charlotte Dubois, an American ambulance driver with secrets of her own, Rhys discovers that even as liberation sweeps across France, the war is far from over. And his personal war has only begun as he is haunted by memories of previous battles and hampered at every turn by danger and betrayal. In a race against time, the war, and a mysterious enemy, Rhys follows his son's trail from Paris to the perilous streets of Vichy to the starving mobs in Lyon to the treacherous Alps.

Winter is approaching, no one is trustworthy, and Rhys must unravel the mystery of his son's wartime actions in the desperate hope of finding him before it's too late. Too late to mend the frayed bond between them. Too late to beg his forgiveness. Too late to bring him home alive.

Meghan Holloway has Masters in Library and Information Science, a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Creative Writing, and an insatiable curiosity for human stories of the past. Follow her at [Twitter.com/AMHolloway1](https://twitter.com/AMHolloway1).

END OF THE OCEAN

Matthew McBride

Fiction/International Suspense

Publication Date: June 11, 2019

\$16.00 / \$20.99 • Trade Paperback • 320 pages • 5.5 x 8.5

ISBN: 1-978-947993-55-6

Rights Available: World



“*A Swollen Red Sun* is rough and ready suspense, encompassing a wide array of characters from the sour side of life, and smashing them together with vigorous and blunt prose.”

—Daniel Woodrell, author of *The Maid’s Version* and *Winter’s Bone*

“Make no mistake, McBride is the king of Chainsaw Noir, and there’s no one else who can step to the throne.” —Chuck Wendig, author of *Blackbirds*

From the author of the popular cult classics *Frank Sinatra in a Blender* and *A Swollen Red Sun* comes a riveting novel of redemption and suspense that asks the question: just how far are you willing to go for love? Would you give up everything you’ve ever known? Risk your freedom? Risk your life?

When newly divorced Sage arrives in Bali, his only plan is to drink on the beach until his money runs out and then return home to start over. So he’s caught by surprise when he falls in love with the country and its people, particularly the attractive and considerate Ratri. Soon Sage can no longer see himself living anywhere else, even as his funds dwindle and his visa’s expiration date nears. Increasingly desperate to stay with Ratri, Sage finds himself being recruited by a drug-smuggling ring—in a country where drug trafficking is punishable by death. The promised pay-out would be enough to set Sage and Ratri up for life, but only if Sage isn’t caught. Will Sage go home and risk the life he envisions with Ratri, or risk everything to stay and make that life possible?

Both lyrical and suspenseful, intimate and ambitious, *THE END OF THE OCEAN* is an unforgettable look at a brutal business in one of the most beautiful places on earth.

Matthew McBride is the author of *A Swollen Red Sun* and the cult classic *Frank Sinatra in a Blender*. Originally from rural Missouri, he now lives in California. Visit him at @MatthewJMcBride.

MIAMI MIDNIGHT

Alex Segura

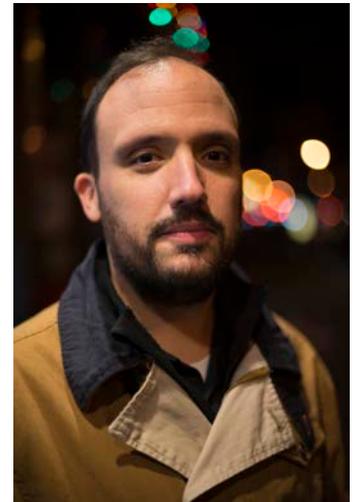
Fiction/Mystery

Publication Date: July 16, 2019

\$26.00 • Hardcover • 336 pages • 5.5 x 8.5

ISBN: 1-978-949993-59-4

Rights Available: World



“Alex Segura one of the writers who reminds me why I fell in love with PI fiction and wanted to write it.” —Laura Lippman, *New York Times* bestselling author of *Sunburn*

"Expertly weaving the past and present, Alex Segura masterfully cranks the tension while revealing the demons that both haunt P.I. Pete Fernandez and drive him forward.

BLACKOUT will hook you on Fernandez and Alex Segura. Let's have more, and soon."

—Robert Crais, *New York Times* bestselling author of *The Wanted*

THE NEW NOVEL IN ALEX SEGURA'S ACCLAIMED PETE FERNANDEZ SERIES!

A year has passed since Pete Fernandez's latest, closest brush with death and he's managed to rebuild his life, running a small bookstore by day and working cases in Miami by night. Sober and finally embracing life, Pete still finds himself watching as events whizz by — including the engagement of an old flame. When an aging Cuban mobster asks Pete to find out who killed his drug-addicted, jazz pianist son and to locate his missing daughter-in-law, Pete balks, until another dead body suggests that the death of the mafioso's son might tie into the people that almost ended Pete's life, and reveal an unexpected, dangerous truth about the Miami private eye's own blurred past.

Alex Segura is a novelist and comic book writer. He is the author of four previous novels in his acclaimed Pete Fernandez series: *Silent City*, *Down The Darkest Street*, *Dangerous Ends* (nominated for the Anthony Award), and *Blackout*. He has also written a number of comic books, including the best-selling and critically acclaimed Archie Meets Kiss storyline, the "Occupy Riverdale" story and the upcoming Archie Meets Ramones. He lives in New York with his wife. He is a Miami native. Follow him at @alex_segura.

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