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JAMIE XIMENA

All We Buried Minotaur Books

'Just WOW! Totally unputdownable.' [5 stars], Goodreads reviewer 'THE best book I've read this year.' [5 stars], Goodreads reviewer 'Amazing book, her best yet!!!!' [5 stars], Goodreads reviewer 'Gave me shivers - gripping, heart-wrenching, consuming.' [5 stars], Goodreads reviewer The truth can set you free, or make you a prisoner... Thirty years ago, Nicola Watson lived with her parents and older brother in a respectable suburb. At ten years old, she didn't yet understand why her stomach tightened when she heard her father's heavy tread as he returned home late at night, or why it made her brother Graham's stammer get worse, or why one night her mother Carol woke them both, wide-eyed and whispering, and took them out of their home and into the unknown. Now a successful lawyer in the city, with a life poles apart from her dark beginnings, Nicola has returned home for her mother's funeral. But as she stands in her mother's house, remembering the woman who sacrificed everything for her children, Nicola has to confront the guilt that she feels for leaving her family behind. And the belief that she played a part in the events that led to her brother going to prison for murder. All Carol wanted was to protect her children, but escaping her husband was only the beginning of the story. And when Nicola learns the truth of what her mother did, it will change everything she thought she knew about herself and her family. A gripping, emotional story of family secrets, and the strength of a mother's love in the darkest times. The next powerful read for fans of The Silent Wife, Kerry Lonsdale and Emily Bleeker. Readers are loving The Lies We Hide! 'There are not enough stars in the world to describe my love for this book! A million stars and more from me!' Goodreads Reviewer [5 stars] 'This book was beautifully written and brought me to tears. One of the best books I've read this year.' Goodreads Reviewer [5 stars] 'This is one of those books that kept me on the edge of my seat from the beginning to the very end.' Goodreads Reviewer [5 stars] 'Amazing... a story so deep and

heartbreaking with so many twists you won't be able to put it down. I would give this book more stars if I could. Loved it and will be definitely recommending this to all my friends.' Goodreads Reviewer [5 stars] 'You know when you find one of those books that you know you are going to love right from the first few pages? This is one of those, it's fast paced and kept me up reading nearly all night last night, I couldn't stop! I can't recommend it enough, it's my favourite read this year so far.' NetGalley Reviewer [5 stars] 'The Lies We Hide is a story that will take hold of you. When I wasn't reading it, I was constantly thinking about it. ... Absolutely outstanding!' By the Letter Book Reviews [5 stars] 'A brilliant domestic thriller! WOW!! Loved this book - almost read it straight through... The end has a twist I did not see coming!!!' Goodreads Reviewer [5 stars] 'This is such a moving story and one I would highly recommend. In fact, thanks to the author, I stayed awake far longer than was sensible in order to keep reading.' Goodreads Reviewer [5 stars] 'Wow, what a book. It grabbed me from the first page and I'm gutted that I've finished it. I've loved this author's other books, however this is definitely my favourite so far.' Goodreads Reviewer [5 stars] 'This is one of those books that kept me on the edge of my seat from the beginning to the very end.' Goodreads Reviewer [5 stars] 'This book pulls at your heart. Grabs you from the very first page and doesn't let go until the very last!' Goodreads Reviewer [5 stars]

It's Not Like It's a Secret HarperCollins

A "breathtaking" century-spanning portrait of the inhabitants of a French village (Jennifer Egan), revealing the deception, despair, love, and longing beneath the calm surface of ordinary lives. What if our homes could tell the stories of others who lived there before us? Set in a small village near Paris, The Balcony follows the inhabitants of a single estate-including a manor and a servants' cottage-over the course of several generations, from the Belle époque to the present day, introducing us to a fascinating cast of characters. A young American au pair develops a crush on her brilliant employer. An ex-courtesan shocks the servants, a Jewish couple in hiding from the Gestapo attract the curiosity of the neighbors, and a housewife begins an affair while renovating her downstairs. Rich and poor, young and old, powerful and

persecuted, all of these people are seeking something: meaning, love, a new beginning, or merely survival. Throughout, cross-generational connections and troubled legacies haunt the same spaces, so that the rose garden, the forest pond, and the balcony off the manor's third floor bedroom become silent witnesses to a century of human drama. In her debut, Jane Delury writes with masterful economy and profound wisdom about growing up, growing old, marriage, infidelity, motherhood - in other words, about life - weaving a gorgeous tapestry of relationships, life-altering choices, and fleeting moments across the frame of the twentieth century. A sumptuous narrative of place that burrows deep into individual lives to reveal hidden regrets, resentments, and desires, The Balcony is brimming with compassion, natural beauty, and unmistakable humanity.

Where the Heart Is HarperCollins

FINALIST FOR THE 2022 LA TIMES ART SEIDENBAUM AWARD FOR FIRST FICTION. LONGLISTED FOR THE PEN/HEMMINGWAY AWARD FOR DEBUT NOVEL. A New York Times Book Review Editors' Choice. "A wonderful, immersive debut novel . . . in [Thomas] Grattan's hands, life's joys are magnetic." --Patrick Nathan, The New York Times Book Review An extraordinary family saga following a mother and two teens as they navigate a new life in East Germany Shortly after the fall of the Berlin Wall, Beate Haas, who defected from East Germany as a child, is notified that her parents' abandoned mansion is available for her to reclaim. Newly divorced and eager to escape her bleak life in upstate New York, where she moved as an adult, she arrives with her two teenagers to discover a city that has become an unrecognizable ghost town. The move fractures the siblings' close relationship, as Michael, free to be gay, takes to looting empty houses and partying with wannabe anarchists, while Adela, fascinated with the horrors of the Holocaust, buries herself in books and finds companionship in a previously unknown cousin. Over time, the town itself changes—from dismantled city to refugee haven and neo-Nazi hotbed, and eventually to a desirable seaside resort town. In the midst of that change, two episodes of devastating, fateful violence come to define the family forever. Moving seamlessly through decades and between the thoughts and lives of several

unforgettable characters, Thomas Grattan's spellbinding novel is a multigenerational epic that illuminates what it means to leave home, and what it means to return. Masterfully crafted with humor, gorgeous prose, and a powerful understanding of history and heritage, *The Recent East* is the profoundly affecting story of a family upended by displacement and loss, and the extraordinary debut of an empathetic and ambitious storyteller.

The Jetsetters Penguin

NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER • Read with Jenna Book Club Pick as Featured on Today • "Everything a romantic comedy should be: witty, relatable, and a little complicated."—People A heartfelt debut about the unlikely relationship between a young woman who's lost her husband and a major league pitcher who's lost his game. NAMED ONE OF THE BEST BOOKS OF THE YEAR BY NPR In a sleepy seaside town in Maine, recently widowed Eveleth "Evvie" Drake rarely leaves her large, painfully empty house nearly a year after her husband's death in a car crash. Everyone in town, even her best friend, Andy, thinks grief keeps her locked inside, and Evvie doesn't correct them. Meanwhile, in New York City, Dean Tenney, former Major League pitcher and Andy's childhood best friend, is wrestling with what miserable athletes living out their worst nightmares call the "yips": he can't throw straight anymore, and, even worse, he can't figure out why. As the media storm heats up, an invitation from Andy to stay in Maine seems like the perfect chance to hit the reset button on Dean's future. When he moves into an apartment at the back of Evvie's house, the two make a deal: Dean won't ask about Evvie's late husband, and Evvie won't ask about Dean's baseball career. Rules, though, have a funny way of being broken—and what starts as an unexpected friendship soon turns into something more. To move forward, Evvie and Dean will have to reckon with their pasts—the friendships they've damaged, the secrets they've kept—but in life, as in baseball, there's always a chance—up until the last out. A joyful, hilarious, and hope-filled debut, *Evvie Drake Starts Over* will have you cheering for the two most unlikely comebacks of the year—and will leave you wanting more from Linda Holmes. Praise for *Evvie Drake Starts Over* "A quirky, sweet, and splendid story of a woman coming into her own."—Taylor Jenkins Reid, New York Times bestselling author of *Daisy Jones & The Six* "Effortlessly enjoyable . . . [a] pitch-perfect . . . adult love story that is as romantic as it is real."—USA Today "Charming, hopeful, and gently

romantic . . . Evvie Drake is great company."—Rainbow Rowell, #1 New York Times bestselling author of *Eleanor & Park*
Searching for Sylvie Lee HarperCollins

Snapsy the alligator is having a normal day when a pesky narrator steps in to spice up the story. Is Snapsy reading a book ... or is he making CRAFTY plans? Is Snapsy on his way to the grocery store ... or is he PROWLING the forest for defenseless birds and fuzzy bunnies? Is Snapsy innocently shopping for a party ... or is he OBSESSED with snack foods that start with the letter P? What's the truth? Snapsy the Alligator (Did Not Ask to Be in This Book) is an irreverent look at storytelling, friendship, and creative differences, perfect for fans of Mo Willems.

The Memory of Desire Algonquin Books

"This gentle, gorgeously written book may be one of my favorites ever." —Jenna Bush Hager (A Today show "Read with Jenna" Book Club Selection!) "A thoughtful, beautiful multigenerational novel about love, God, jealousy, and friendship." —Elizabeth Gilbert, author of *Eat, Pray, Love* "A moving portrait of love and friendship set against a backdrop of social change." —The New York Times Book Review (Editor's Choice) "Here is the power of the novel in its simplest, richest form: bearing intimate witness to human beings grappling with their faith and falling in love. That Wall executes it so beautifully? Well, this is exactly why we read literary fiction...The best book about faith in recent memory." —Entertainment Weekly (A-) Charles and Lily, James and Nan. They meet in Greenwich Village in 1963 when Charles and James are jointly hired to steward the historic Third Presbyterian Church through turbulent times. Their personal differences however, threaten to tear them apart. Charles is destined to succeed his father as an esteemed professor of history at Harvard, until an unorthodox lecture about faith leads him to ministry. How then, can he fall in love with Lily—fiercely intellectual, elegantly stern—after she tells him with certainty that she will never believe in God? And yet, how can he not? James, the youngest son in a hardscrabble Chicago family, spent much of his youth angry at his alcoholic father and avoiding his anxious mother. Nan grew up in Mississippi, the devout and beloved daughter of a minister and a debutante. James's escape from his desperate circumstances leads him to Nan and, despite his skepticism of hope in all its forms, her gentle, constant faith changes the course of his life. In *The Dearly Beloved*, we follow these two couples

through decades of love and friendship, jealousy and understanding, forgiveness and commitment. Against the backdrop of turbulent changes facing the city and the church's congregation, these four forge improbable paths through their evolving relationships, each struggling with uncertainty, heartbreak, and joy. A poignant meditation on faith and reason, marriage and children, and the ways we find meaning in our lives, Cara Wall's *The Dearly Beloved* is a gorgeous, wise, and provocative novel that is destined to become a classic.

Highway Blue Penguin

Emigrating with her mother from Hong Kong to Brooklyn, Kimberly Chang begins a secret double life as an exceptional schoolgirl during the day and sweatshop worker at night, an existence also marked by a first crush and the pressure to save her family from poverty. A first novel.

With or Without You Hogarth

She befriended the one woman she was never supposed to meet. Now she's the key suspect in her disappearance. For fans of *The Perfect Mother* and *The Wife Between Us* comes a gripping psychological suspense debut about two strangers, one incredible connection, and the steep price of obsession. Lana Stone has never considered herself a stalker—until the night she impulsively follows a familiar face through the streets of New York's Upper West Side. Her target? The "anonymous" egg donor she'd selected through an agency, the one who's making motherhood possible for her. Hungry to learn more about her, Lana plans only to watch her from a distance. But when circumstances bring them face-to-face, an unexpected friendship is born. Katya, a student at Columbia, is the yin to Lana's yang, an impulsive free spirit who lives life at the edge. And for pragmatic Lana, she's a breath of fresh air and a welcome distraction from her painful breakup with her baby's father. Then, just as suddenly as Katya entered Lana's life, she disappears—and Lana might have been the last person to see her before she went missing. Determined to find out what became of the woman to whom she owes so much, Lana digs into Katya's past, even as the police grow suspicious of her motives. But she's unprepared for the secrets she unearths, and their power to change everything she thought she knew about those she loves best...

The Dearly Beloved Crooked Lane Books

From the bestselling author of *Searching for Sylvie Lee* and *Girl in*

Translation, a novel about a young woman torn between her family duties in Chinatown and her escape into the world of ballroom dancing. Twenty-two-year-old Charlie Wong grew up in New York's Chinatown, the older daughter of a Beijing ballerina and a noodle maker. Though an ABC (America-born Chinese), Charlie's entire world has been limited to this small area. Now grown, she lives in the same tiny apartment with her widower father and her eleven-year-old sister, and works—miserably—as a dishwasher. But when she lands a job as a receptionist at a ballroom dance studio, Charlie gains access to a world she hardly knew existed, and everything she once took to be certain turns upside down. Gradually, at the dance studio, awkward Charlie's natural talents begin to emerge. With them, her perspective, expectations, and sense of self are transformed—something she must take great pains to hide from her father and his suspicion of all things Western. As Charlie blossoms, though, her sister becomes chronically ill. As Pa insists on treating his ailing child exclusively with Eastern practices to no avail, Charlie is forced to try to reconcile her two selves and her two worlds—Eastern and Western, old world and new—to rescue her little sister without sacrificing her newfound confidence and identity.

American Traitor St. Martin's Press

A Good Morning America Book Club Pick and a New York Times bestseller! "A page-turner for booklovers everywhere! . . . A story of family ties, their lost dreams, and the redemption that comes from discovering truth."—Adriana Trigiani, bestselling author of *The Shoemaker's Wife* In New York Times bestselling author Fiona Davis's latest historical novel, a series of book thefts roils the iconic New York Public Library, leaving two generations of strong-willed women to pick up the pieces. It's 1913, and on the surface, Laura Lyons couldn't ask for more out of life—her husband is the superintendent of the New York Public Library, allowing their family to live in an apartment within the grand building, and they are blessed with two children. But headstrong, passionate Laura wants more, and when she takes a leap of faith and applies to the Columbia Journalism School, her world is cracked wide open. As her studies take her all over the city, she is drawn to Greenwich Village's new bohemia, where she discovers the Heterodoxy Club—a radical, all-female group in which women are encouraged to loudly share their opinions on suffrage, birth control, and women's rights. Soon, Laura finds herself questioning her

traditional role as wife and mother. And when valuable books are stolen back at the library, threatening the home and institution she loves, she's forced to confront her shifting priorities head on . . . and may just lose everything in the process. Eighty years later, in 1993, Sadie Donovan struggles with the legacy of her grandmother, the famous essayist Laura Lyons, especially after she's wrangled her dream job as a curator at the New York Public Library. But the job quickly becomes a nightmare when rare manuscripts, notes, and books for the exhibit Sadie's running begin disappearing from the library's famous Berg Collection. Determined to save both the exhibit and her career, the typically risk-averse Sadie teams up with a private security expert to uncover the culprit. However, things unexpectedly become personal when the investigation leads Sadie to some unwelcome truths about her own family heritage—truths that shed new light on the biggest tragedy in the library's history.

The Grammarians HarperCollins

Optioned by Netflix and a most anticipated book from Bustle, The Rumpus, Electric Literature, and LitHub! An unsettling, seductive psychological thriller about a young woman with multiple personalities, perfect for fans of Caroline Kepnes and Clare Mackintosh "An electrifying, thought-provoking, and unflinching novel." —Jean Kwok, New York Times bestselling author of *Searching for Sylvie Lee* "An exceptional debut from a talented author." —Clare Mackintosh, New York Times bestselling author of *I Let You Go Beautiful*. *Damaged*. *Destructive*. Meet Alexa Wú, a brilliant yet darkly self-aware young woman whose chaotic life is controlled by a series of alternate personalities. When Alexa's friend Ella gets a job at a high-end gentlemen's club, she catches the attention of its shark-like owner and is gradually drawn into his inner circle. As Alexa's world becomes intimately entangled with Ella's, she soon finds herself the unwitting keeper of a nightmarish secret as she follows Ella into London's cruel underbelly. Threatened and vulnerable, Alexa will discover whether her multiple personalities are her greatest asset, or her most dangerous obstacle. Electrifying and breathlessly compulsive, *The Eighth Girl* is an omnivorous examination of life with mental illness and the acute trauma of living in a misogynist world. With bingeable prose and a clinician's expertise, Chung's psychological debut deftly explores identity, innocence, and the fracturing weight that young women are forced to carry, causing

us to ask: Does the truth lead to self-discovery, or to self-destruction?

The Balcony HarperCollins

A "beautifully written, poignant exploration of family, art, culture, immigration...and love" (Jean Kwok, author of *Searching for Sylvie Lee* and *Girl in Translation*) set against the backdrop of China's Cultural Revolution that follows a father's quest to reunite his family before his precocious daughter's momentous birthday, which Garth Greenwell calls "one of the most beautiful debuts I've read in years." How many times in life can we start over without losing ourselves? In the summer of 1986, in a small Chinese village, ten-year-old Junie receives a momentous letter from her parents, who had left for America years ago: her father promises to return home and collect her by her twelfth birthday. But Junie's growing determination to stay put in the idyllic countryside with her beloved grandparents threatens to derail her family's shared future. Junie doesn't know that her parents, Momo and Cassia, are newly estranged from one another in their adopted country, each holding close private tragedies and histories from the tumultuous years of their youth during China's Cultural Revolution. While Momo grapples anew with his deferred musical ambitions and dreams for Junie's future in America, Cassia finally begins to wrestle with a shocking act of brutality from years ago. For Momo to fulfill his promise, he must make one last desperate attempt to reunite all three family members before Junie's birthday—even if it means bringing painful family secrets to light. *Swimming Back to Trout River* is a "symphony of a novel" (BookPage) that weaves together the stories of Junie, Momo, Cassia, and Dawn—a talented violinist from Momo's past—while depicting their heartbreak and resilience, tenderly revealing the hope, compromises, and abiding ingenuity that make up the lives of immigrants. Feng's debut is "filled with tragedy yet touched with life-affirming passion" (Kirkus Reviews, starred review), and "Feng weaves a plot both surprising and inevitable, with not a word to spare" (Booklist, starred review).

Her Daughter's Mother HarperCollins

Talk about unlucky sevens. An hour ago, seventeen-year-old, seven months pregnant Novalee Nation was heading for California with her boyfriend. Now she finds herself stranded at a Wal-Mart in Sequoyah, Oklahoma, with just \$7.77 in change. But Novalee is about to discover hidden treasures in this small Southwest town--

a group of down-to-earth, deeply caring people willing to help a homeless, jobless girl living secretly in a Wal-Mart. From Bible-thumping blue-haired Sister Thelma Husband to eccentric librarian Forney Hull who loves Novalee more than she loves herself, they are about to take her--and you, too--on a moving, funny, and unforgettable journey to . . . *Where the Heart Is*.

Somebody Up There Hates You Little, Brown

"A moving meditation on motherhood, inter-generational trauma and how surface appearances often obscure a deeper truth. . . . A stunning second novel from a writer who set the bar very high with her first!"—Tara Conklin, New York Times bestselling author of *The Last Romantics* and Community Board The acclaimed New York Times bestselling author of *A Woman Is No Man* returns with a striking exploration of the expectations of a Palestinian-American woman, the meaning of a fulfilling life, and the ways our unresolved pasts affect our presents. "After Yara is placed on probation at work for fighting with a racist coworker, her Palestinian mother claims the provocation and all that's come after were the result of a family curse. While Yara doesn't believe in old superstitions, she finds herself unpacking her strict, often volatile childhood growing up in Brooklyn, looking for clues as to why she feels so unfulfilled in a life her mother could only dream of. Etaf Rum's follow-up to her 2019 debut, *A Woman Is No Man*, is a complicated mother-daughter drama that looks at the lasting effects of intergenerational trauma and what it takes to break the cycle of abuse." —Time magazine, "The Most Anticipated Books of the Year"

The First Mistake Penguin

"A truly addictive read" (Glamour) about how a young woman's crush on a privileged former classmate becomes a story of love, lies, and dark obsession, offering stark insights into the immigrant experience, as it hurtles to its electrifying ending in this "twisty, unputdownable, psychological thriller" (People). Ivy Lin is a thief and a liar—but you'd never know it by looking at her. Raised outside of Boston, Ivy's immigrant grandmother relies on Ivy's mild appearance for cover as she teaches her granddaughter how to pilfer items from yard sales and second-hand shops. Thieving allows Ivy to accumulate the trappings of a suburban teen—and, most importantly, to attract the attention of Gideon Speyer, the golden boy of a wealthy political family. But when Ivy's mother discovers her trespasses, punishment is swift and Ivy is sent to

China, and her dream instantly evaporates. Years later, Ivy has grown into a poised yet restless young woman, haunted by her conflicting feelings about her upbringing and her family. Back in Boston, when Ivy bumps into Sylvia Speyer, Gideon's sister, a reconnection with Gideon seems not only inevitable—it feels like fate. Slowly, Ivy sinks her claws into Gideon and the entire Speyer clan by attending fancy dinners, and weekend getaways to the cape. But just as Ivy is about to have everything she's ever wanted, a ghost from her past resurfaces, threatening the nearly perfect life she's worked so hard to build. Filled with surprising twists and a nuanced exploration of class and race, *White Ivy* is a "highly entertaining," (The Washington Post) "propulsive debut" (San Francisco Chronicle) that offers a glimpse into the dark side of a woman who yearns for success at any cost.

Evil Eye MIRA

"You've never read a road trip novel like Ailsa McFarlane's *Highway Blue*."—Entertainment Weekly A hypnotic debut of broken love on the run, from a blazingly original young writer "In front of me the long length of the road wound out, wound out and wound on under hot sky. And I drove . . ." In the lonely town of San Padua, Anne Marie can never get the sound of the ocean out of her head. And it's here—dog-walking by day, working bars by night—where she tries to forget about her ex-husband, Cal: both their brief marriage and their long estrangement. When Cal shows up on Anne Marie's doorstep one day, clearly in trouble, she reluctantly agrees to a drink. But later that night a gun goes off in a violent accident and the young couple are forced to hit the open road together in escape. Crammed in a beat-up car with their broken past, so begins a journey across a vast, mythical American landscape, through the dark seams of the country, toward a city that may or may not represent salvation. *Highway Blue* is a story of being lost and found—and of love, in all its forms. Written in spare, shimmering prose, it introduces the arrival of an electrifyingly singular new voice.

The Lies We Hide Penguin

I had to accept that I wasn't just Arthur Leywin anymore, and that I could no longer be limited by the circumstances of my birth. If I was going to escape, if I was going to go toe-to-toe with the most powerful beings in this world, I needed to push myself to my utmost limit...and then I needed to push even further. After nearly dying as a victim of his own strength, Arthur Leywin wakes to find

himself far from the continent where he was born for the second time. Alone, broken, and with no way to tell his family he's alive, Arthur must rebuild his strength to survive. As he ascends through an ancient dungeon filled with hostile beasts and devious trials, he discovers an ancient, absolute power - a power that will either ruin him or take him to new heights. But the dungeon won't give up its knowledge easily. Before he can plunder its depths, Arthur must learn to untangle the threads of fate. He must band together with the unlikeliest of allies if he hopes to escape with his life.

Evvie Drake Starts Over Simon and Schuster

An amateur sheriff confronts the long-sleeping secrets of her small Washington State mountain town in this dark, twisty mystery for fans of Julia Keller and Sheena Kamal Interim sheriff Elizabeth "Bet" Rivers has always had one repeat nightmare: a shadowy figure throwing a suspicious object into her hometown lake in Collier, Washington. For the longest time, she chalked it up to an overactive imagination as a kid. Then the report arrives. In the woods of the Cascade mountain range, right in her jurisdiction, a body floats to the surface of Lake Collier. When the body is extricated and revealed, no one can identify Jane Doe. But someone must know the woman, so why aren't they coming forward? Bet has been sitting as the interim sheriff of this tiny town in the ill-fitting shoes of her late father and predecessor. With the nightmare on her heels, Bet decided to build a life for herself in Los Angeles, but now it's time to confront the tragic history of Collier. The more she learns, the more Bet realizes she doesn't know the townspeople of Collier as well as she thought, and nothing can prepare her for what she is about to discover.

The Surrendered Bookouture

From the moment the Author hustles Howard out of bed and into the kitchen to make breakfast, we know we're on a literary adventure like no other. The Author wants her story; Howard wants to understand who he is and what he's done with his one wild and precious life. By turns comic, poignant, lacerating and profound, *HELPING HOWARD* probes the complex and ever-changing nature of love, and seeks to understand, in the deepest way possible, the ties that bind. Schloss has written a remarkable story; hers is a nimble, inventive and wholly original voice. -Kitty Zeldis, author of *Not Our Kind* What a gorgeous novel! Romantic, deeply humane, astonishingly clever and moving - this is a love

story between author and character that continually makes one gasp, even as it delivers great truths. Thank you, Sally Schloss, for writing it. -Bonnie Friedman, bestselling author of *Writing Past Dark* In Sally Schloss's insightful and engrossing novel, an Author writes a novel while regularly checking in with its real-life titular character. Howard is a kind and singularly tolerant man who has greatly compromised himself within his marriage. He nervously waits as the Author unveils each new phase of his life. Their ongoing conversation affords Howard-and the reader-a unique chance to see how his choices have at once enriched and undermined him. Schloss's writing is meticulous. -Patricia Grossman, author of *Radiant Daughter*. For those of you who delve into transactional dynamics as a profession this book is a fascinating must read. The characters engage in the all too typical tendencies of repeating the same patterns of behavior, thoughts, and feelings with their inevitable undesirable outcomes. The book sympathetically dramatizes how these underlying negative core beliefs affect these characters' lives over the course of their thirty-five-year marriage. -Robert Pazulinec Ed.D. Licensed Psychologist --- Helping Howard explores the fraught lifetime marriage of a straight older man, his younger gay wife, and the

daughter that survives them. An anti-romantic romance, this book tells the tale of The Author who awakens Howard into consciousness in order to become her accomplice in figuring out what happens next. Their ongoing dialogue pushes the story forward through quarrelsome, humorous, psychological cliffhangers. Playing with, and exposing, the creative process adds another dimension to the narrative as The Author creates a relationship with her main character, which in turn, reflects on who she is. *Helping Howard* is about people struggling with understanding their own barriers to achieving and sustaining intimacy. It's a complex story of human longing and unmet desire. *Grit* Simon and Schuster

Read an essay by Chang-rae Lee here. The bestselling, award-winning writer of *Native Speaker*, *Aloft*, and *My Year Abroad* returns with his biggest, most ambitious novel yet: a spellbinding story of how love and war echo through an entire lifetime. With his three critically acclaimed novels, Chang-rae Lee has established himself as one of the most talented writers of contemporary literary fiction. Now, with *The Surrendered*, Lee has created a book that amplifies everything we've seen in his

previous works, and reads like nothing else. It is a brilliant, haunting, heartbreaking story about how love and war inalterably change the lives of those they touch. June Han was only a girl when the Korean War left her orphaned; Hector Brennan was a young GI who fled the petty tragedies of his small town to serve his country. When the war ended, their lives collided at a Korean orphanage where they vied for the attentions of Sylvie Tanner, the beautiful yet deeply damaged missionary wife whose elusive love seemed to transform everything. Thirty years later and on the other side of the world, June and Hector are reunited in a plot that will force them to come to terms with the mysterious secrets of their past, and the shocking acts of love and violence that bind them together. As Lee unfurls the stunning story of June, Hector, and Sylvie, he weaves a profound meditation on the nature of heroism and sacrifice, the power of love, and the possibilities for mercy, salvation, and surrendering oneself to another. Combining the complex themes of identity and belonging of *Native Speaker* and *A Gesture Life* with the broad range, energy, and pure storytelling gifts of *Aloft*, Chang-rae Lee has delivered his most ambitious, exciting, and unforgettable work yet. It is a mesmerizing novel, elegantly suspenseful and deeply affecting.