

LOAN LE

@LOANLOANLE

FALL 2026



CATALOGUE

CONTENTS

Letter from Loan Le	3	Q & A	10
September: <i>Trad Wife</i>	5	A Book Graph	11
November: <i>Beastly Things</i>	6	On My Radar	12
December: <i>Fetal Position</i>	7	On My Mind	13
Out with the Old	8	Find Me	14
In with the New	9		

DEAR AGENTS,

Wasn't it just summer? Somehow we've gone from beach reads and half-empty offices to light sweaters, Frankfurt prep, and that particular back-to-school energy that descends on publishing every September. And apparently the rest of the industry has been busy while we were away: the National Book Award longlist have arrived, big deals are being made (and broken—yikes!), and publishing continues to find new ways to surprise us.

I've also been enjoying my colleague Sean deLone's dispatches on his Dear Head of Mine Substack. You might have seen his very honest, very viral headline: "The Nonfiction Book Market Is Collapsing." So, you know. Welcome back!

Closer to home, we recently launched Atria's Summer 2027 list, and you'll see a couple of mine in the next few pages. Launch always reminds me just how wonderfully varied our list is. Emily Bestler is publishing the English translation of a Japanese psychological thriller and cult hit. Senior Editor Jenny Xu is publishing a book about sandwiches—totally appropriate, since there is a literal Atria Teams chat called Club Sandwich. And newly minted VP and Executive Editor Emilia Rhodes continues to publish romantasy bestseller after romantasy bestseller.

Somehow, all of these books live under the same roof. I love that.

I've lost count of how many of these catalogues I've put together, but looking back at the last few made me realize how quickly an editorial list evolves. Books that were once submissions in my inbox are now sitting on shelves; debut authors are on their second (or third!) books with me; and categories I once thought defined my taste now feel more like starting points.

My tastes haven't changed so much as expanded. With every book I acquire and publish, I understand a little more about what a "Loan book" can be—and how much room there still is for you to surprise me. (Please surprise me!)

I love horror, but what I really love is discovering something frightening in a place I've never thought to look. I love thrillers that introduce me to an unfamiliar world, teach me something strange, or send me down an obsessive research rabbit hole. I love speculative fiction that begins with a beautifully simple what if? and follows that question somewhere complicated.

I want puzzles. Secrets. Obsessions. Strange professions and insular communities with their own rules, language, hierarchies, and grudges. (Like publishing.) I want the propulsive pleasure of a conspiracy novel with the characterization and prose of upmarket fiction—I grew up reading Dan Brown and Douglas Preston, after all. I want mysteries that don't necessarily look like mysteries, and literary novels with plenty of bite and zero navel-gazing.

Maybe that's why one conversation I attended this fall has stuck with me.

At Villa Albertine's Imaginary Worlds festival, I was struck by a discussion of French speculative fiction, where genre boundaries can be more porous and speculative books can live comfortably alongside general literary fiction. We should do more of that. Labels are useful shorthand, but I'm much more interested in what happens when a novel slips between them.

Case in point: Transit Books discussed the unexpected phenomenon of Jacqueline Harpman's *I Who Have Never Known Men*—a book whose extraordinary second life surprised even its editors.

There are plenty of reminders on my own list of how far books can travel. Sarah Langan's third Atria novel, *Trad Wife*, is out this week, with a Strand event alongside the great Victor LaValle. And in October, Pulitzer Prize winner Dan Kraus will be everywhere: New York Comic Con, his first 92NY event—in conversation with actor Josh Brolin—and, the very next day, the Pulitzer ceremony.

It's a packed Fall, but amid launches, events, Frankfurt prep, and increasingly alarming Substack headlines, I keep coming back to the same thing: the best part of this job is still being surprised. Every book I publish teaches me something new about my own taste.

So consider everything in these pages a starting point, not a set of rules. Better yet, send me the book I don't know how to ask for yet.

Loan Le

COMING
SOON
THIS FALL

To a bookstore near you.

September 29, 2026



**“Scary and
absorbing.”
-Stephen King, #1
NYT Bestselling
Author**

A journalist descends into horror as she uncovers the sinister truth behind a trad wife influencer in this “flat-out brilliant” (Paul Tremblay, New York Times bestselling author) blend of chilling suspense and razor-sharp commentary on modern femininity, performative domesticity, and social media—perfect for readers of Yesteryear, Mexican Gothic, and The Yellow Wallpaper.

Every day, millions watch Mia Wright, the “trad wife” queen, on her idyllic three-hundred-acre farm. With her handsome husband, seven well-behaved children, and a life of from-scratch meals and pastoral bliss, she’s an icon of modern femininity. But behind every perfect image is a secret. And in this case, the secret is a horror.

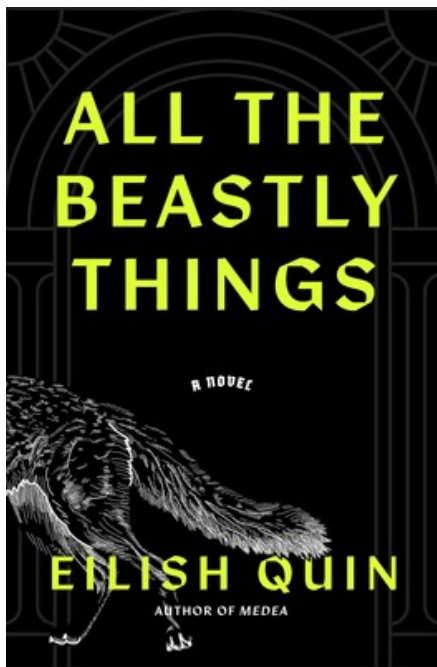
Desperate to save her tarnished career, journalist Jenny Kaplan arrives at Black Swan Farm to profile Mia. Jenny is ready to write a scathing exposé, determined to expose the deception behind Mia’s curated life. But soon, Jenny has more to contend with than staged videos and camera-ready poses. There’s something wrong at the farmhouse. Something slithers through Jenny’s dreams, and at night, the children sing strange nursery rhymes.

She’s losing time. She’s losing her hair. She starts to worry that she’s losing her mind.

There is a horror at the heart of Black Swan, and it’s waiting just for Jenny. Trad Wife will make you question what’s real and what’s just a perfectly curated deception...

Will you see the lie?

Read if you don’t want to relax.

November 17, 2026

**In paradise,
revelation can
be a
dangerous
thing.**

In a post-apocalyptic matriarchy that has erased men, a young novitiate faces a crisis of faith when her best friend begins receiving mysterious visions of an archangel—and must choose between the faith that shaped her and the forbidden longings that could destroy it.

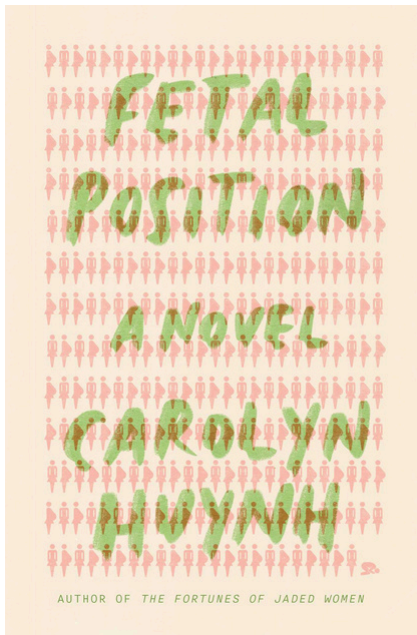
The year is 2171, and the Earth is not what it once was. After climate collapse, plague, fascism, artificial intelligence, and nuclear fallout reduced civilization to ash, nature has reclaimed the Earth. Small monastic communities have emerged from the carnage—self-sufficient, female-only religious utopias governed by a strict codex and surrounded by walls to keep the wilds at bay. The new world is harmonious, and blissfully free from structures of oppression such as hierarchy, capitalism, and time.

Seventeen-year-old Igraine has never known life beyond the cloistered walls of the Field or seen a human male. Brilliant and devout, she spends her days in the gardens and scriptorium beside her closest companion, Ophelia. Their studies will culminate in twin posts at the Lunar Abbey—a gothic cathedral on the Moon reserved for the most venerated Sisters.

Their futures fracture when Ophelia begins receiving visions of a mysterious, alluring, and damningly masculine archangel. As the girls contend with cryptic fragments of revelation and devastating rumors about the Order's darker origins, their bond becomes precarious and Igraine must confront her unraveling faith in a system that demands her complete surrender.

Read this if you like your nuns a little gay.

December 1, 2026



The best benefits package you'll ever regret.

Like a Black Mirror episode that feels all too terrifyingly real, this speculative novel from the author of the Good Morning America Book Club pick *The Fortunes of Jaded Women* follows a burnt-out corporate employee who joins a start-up that promises domestic ease—but as women begin to disappear, she must confront the violent cost of complicity.

In a near future plagued by plummeting birthrates and a male loneliness epidemic, a mysterious start-up called Hatch recruits “high-value” women with a seductive promise: trade your grueling work life for subsidized security, a beautiful home, and a robotic butler to handle every domestic burden.

You simply trade in your corporate labor for child labor—through being inseminated with a male match’s sperm.

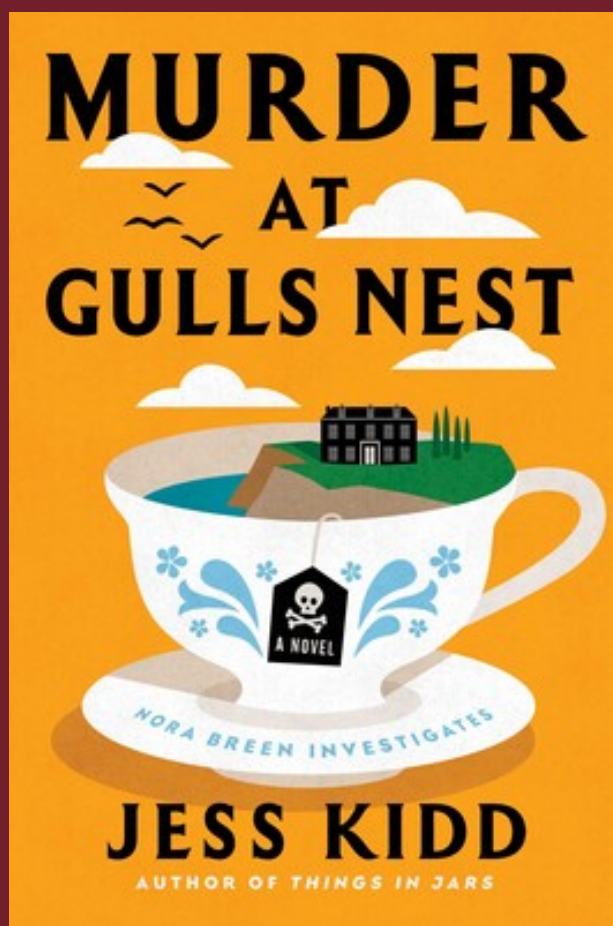
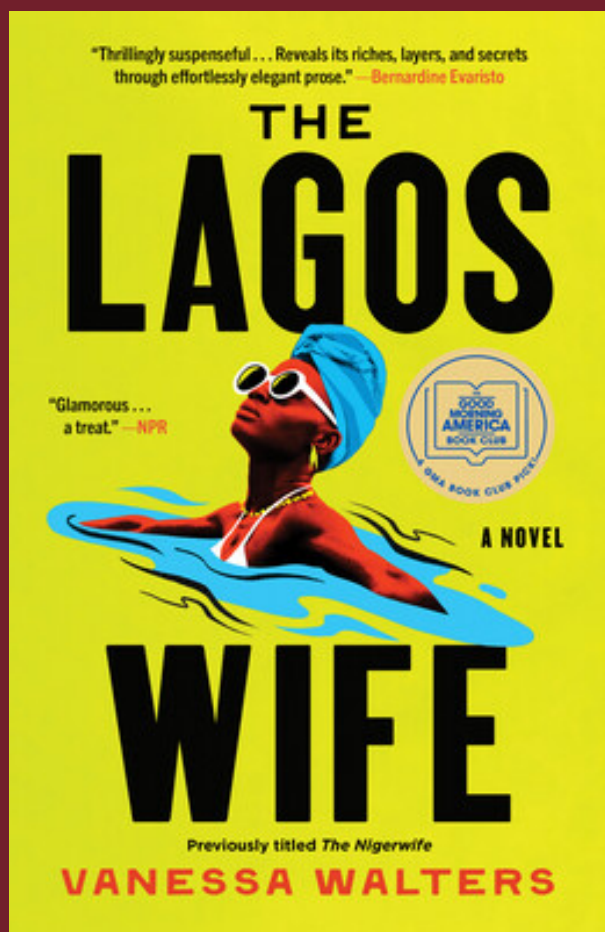
Lena Do is one of those women. She’s been stuck in corporate America for far too long. She hates her life. She has no nuclear family, no cousins, and no support system. The world is shrinking, and it’s not just the men who are lonely.

So when she receives an invitation to Hatch, she’s wooed by their promises of connection and happiness. But the pristine, utopian facade begins to crack when the women around her vanish, and has no choice but to race against the clock to uncover the truth behind the company before she’s trapped forever—all the while trying to discern whose side her robot butler is really on.

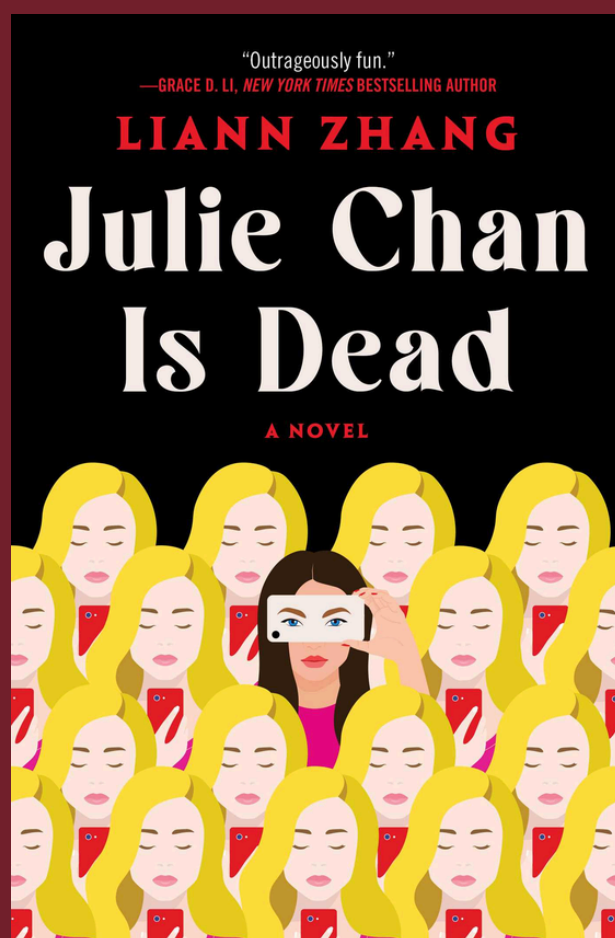
With biting social critique, *Fetal Position* examines survival, complicity, artificial life, bodily autonomy, and the chilling reality of an increasingly data-driven world that optimizes who deserves love—and who deserves to live.

Read this if you don’t read the fine print.

This may or may not be a book club pick for something.

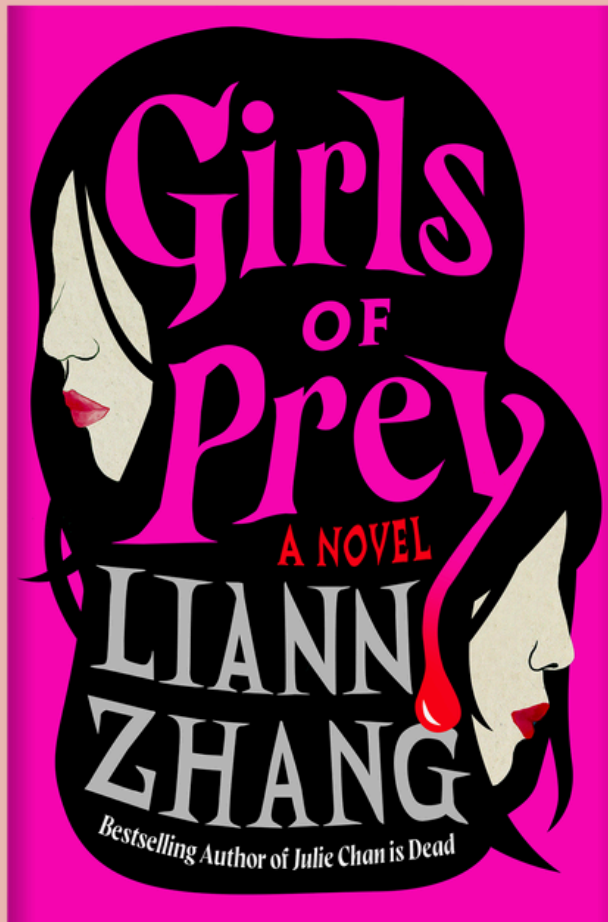


OUT WITH THE OLD

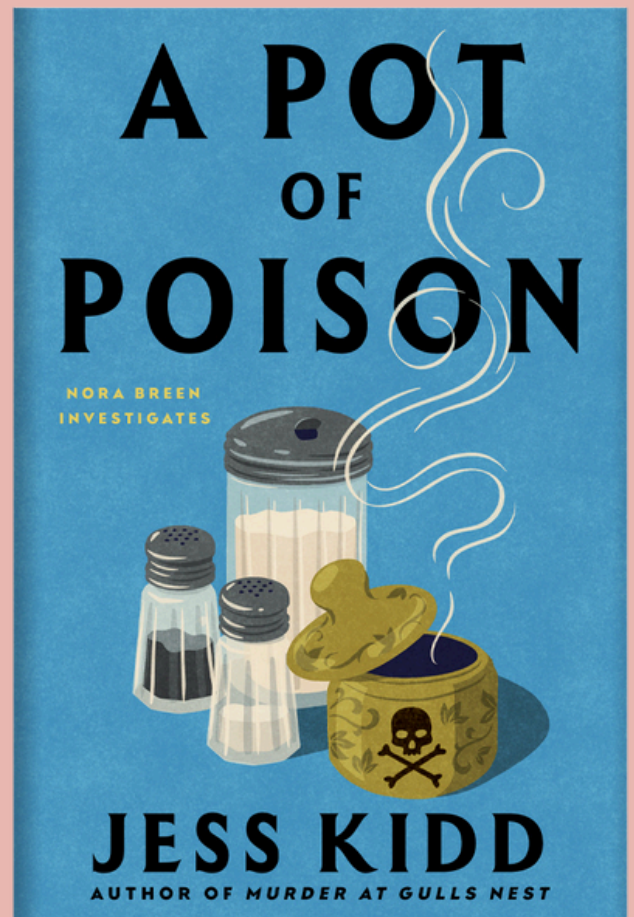
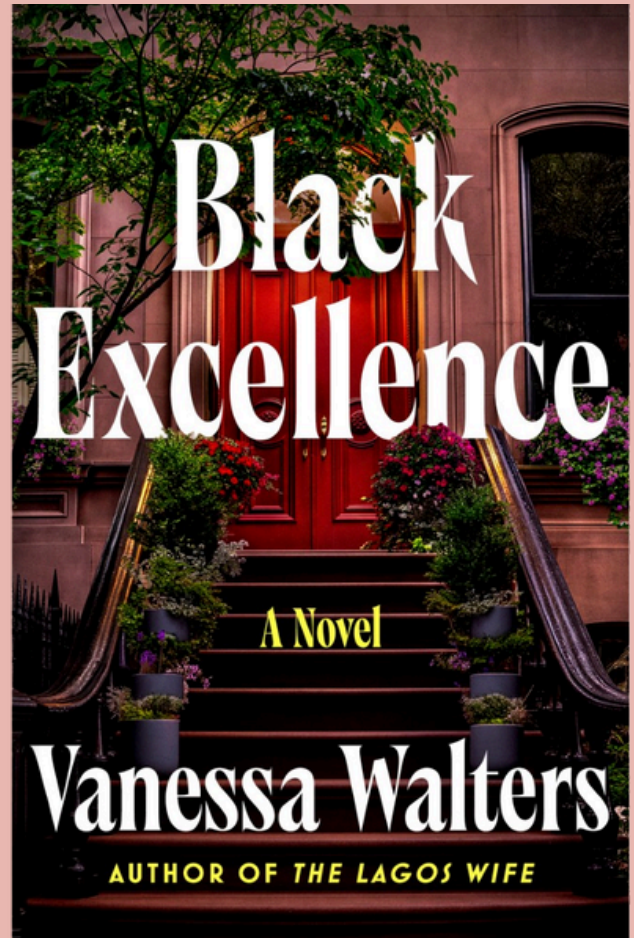


*DEBUT AUTHORS
RETURN*

**IN
WITH
THE
NEW**



*WITH THEIR
SOPHOMORE NOVELS*



favorite places/locations you'd like to see in fiction

I'm up for any location as long as it's on Earth (So, no spaceships!). Broadly, I love the claustrophobic feeling of a small town. I love old institutions--landmarks, hospitals, museums, libraries. The underbelly of a place.

hobbies and fun facts

I'm an avid baker: sourdough, baguettes, bagels, buns, cookies, etc. I'm into manga and anime right now. I also recently started gardening in my apartment, using grow lights. While I was visiting home in CT, I helped my mom with her Asian pear trees, and I planted radishes in just about every empty spot in her garden, so it'll sort of be an Easter Egg hunt for her when they're ready. I've caught the writing bug again and I'm working on my third novel, an adult book that, surprisingly, isn't scary.

do you work with IP?

I dabble in IP. I have a few ideas, but I haven't gone wide with auditioning too many writers. If you're interested in hearing about a KPop thriller or a reincarnation thriller and have a client in mind--holler!

what's changed about your list?

I used to describe my list as a cave (the back: very scary things; the middle: light + dark; the front: happyish family dramedies.) I live more towards the middle and the back of the cave these days. (See the next graphic.)

Q & A

(Sent in the 'what else should I include in my wish list?' section)

any holes in your list

This is a very broad assumption, but sometimes I see POC stuck in the literary-family-immigrant category, when I'd really love to see it in all genres. Genre + cultural history is something I enjoy. In the past I have loved Violet Kupersmith's *Build Your House Around My Body* and Steph Cha's *Your House Will Pay*.

what's your submission policy?

Atria has many subimprints. You're allowed to submit to both Atria and EBB, or Atria and One Signal. We will just fight to the death if we like the same project. I prefer full manuscripts, but there are occasional exceptions where a proposal and outline make sense. I like pitch letters in the same Word doc as the novel because I forward everything to my Kindle. I find it's easier if you just attach the manuscript to your pitch email; it saves us one or two emails. If it's a no from me, that typically means it's a no from another Atria editor . . . but in reality, I won't know if you submitted to another editor unless they bring it up or you tell me. A no from me doesn't mean it's a no from S&S in general. I also always tell the agent if I know someone else might like this or that submission more than I do.

favorite tropes

Traumatized people.

why should you be the editor and not someone else?

This person who sent in this Q might be trying to start some DRAMA lol. But if I say, "Because I'm the best," how would that look for me? Just kidding.

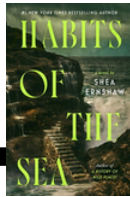
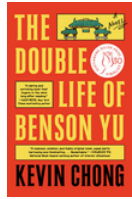
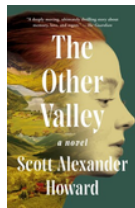
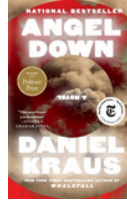
If there's a phrase that fits me, I think it's: "I will find a way." I'll find a way to make the book work. I'll find a way to make both you and the author happy. I'll find a way to get people's attention.

I was promoted to editor during COVID, when there were very few ways to meet agents and build relationships--Zoom was only just becoming a thing. So I had to find another way. That's actually how this wishlist came to be, and now there are 200 people whose inboxes I get to spam every quarter. (But you asked for it when you signed up.)

I've held Sales reps hostage until they've read my author's book. I've chased down solutions when something wasn't working. I'm probably incapable of leaving well enough alone when I think there's something more we can do for a book.

My therapist would probably tell you not to enable this particular people-pleasing tendency any further. But for a writer, I think it's a pretty good deal: you get an editor who's perhaps a little too determined to make your wishes come true. And when something gets in the way of the book, my first instinct isn't to accept it. It's to figure out another way.

THE WEIRD



INTERIOR

EXTERIOR

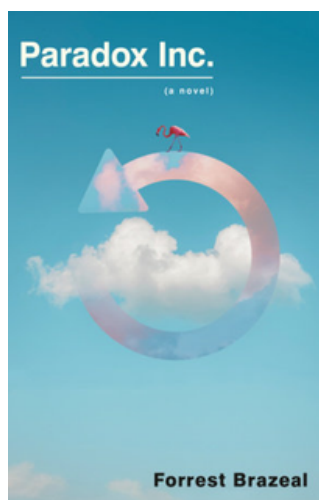
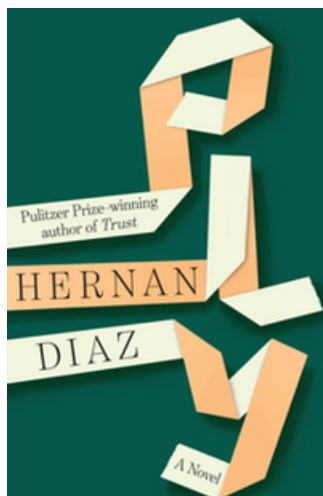
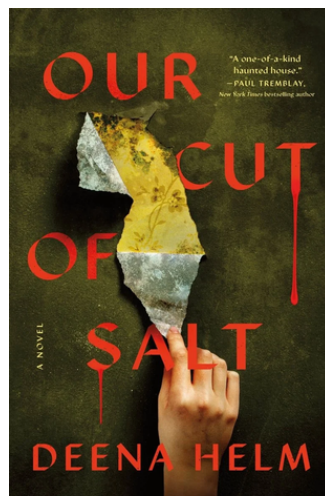
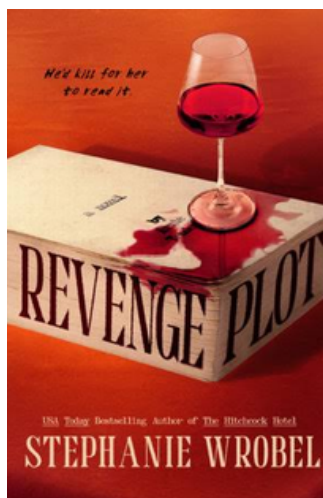
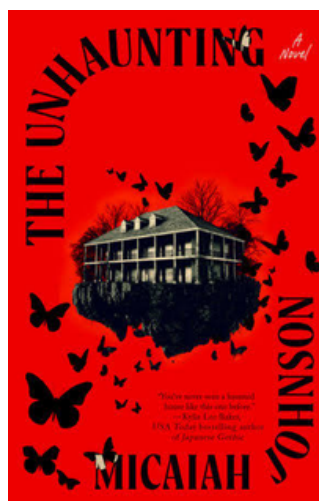


I tried not to overthink where I placed my books on this graph! In general, though, this reflects my love of upmarket and literary fiction with richly developed characters and unusual premises.

THE NORMAL

Discoveries made through mutual follows, Instagram posts, "Best Of" lists, and good old-fashioned word of mouth.

ONLY MY RADAR



topical novel that doesn't feel topical

the phrase “issue-driven” never appealed to me. I don’t actively look for something that feels relevant now. Maybe prescient is a better term?

the “what the hell did I just read?” novel

formally or conceptually strange, but still compulsively readable. vibes must be off :)

the book with a totally different genre halfway through

Let me think I know what I'm reading. Then change the rules.

ON MY MIND

kinda historical? or “this actually happened?”

I love history, but give me the unexpected way in: a mystery, crime, speculative conceit, horror element, forgotten person, strange occupation, or disputed piece of history. My author Dan Kraus won the Pulitzer for *ANGEL DOWN*; it’s historical but weird historical. (Humble brag.)

the religious novel that's willing to get weird.

Loan Lore: Pretty sure I was in a cult for a hot second, when I was twelve or thirteen.

Anyways.

Faith, ritual, doubt, devotion, heresy, religious communities, miracles—or the terrifying possibility that someone has interpreted God incorrectly.

a recent “shower thought”

guy has a perfect wife. hates his sister-in-law who seems to hate his guts. one day, guy messes up, but doesn’t think his wife will care. then sister-in-law gives him a frightened look. “You’re in trouble now. She’s gonna kill you.”

REQUEST A BOOK

I've got plenty.



FIND ME



@loanloanle on Instagram.

