

5 OTTER LITERARY

RIGHTS GUIDE



FALL 2025

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KATH JONATHAN

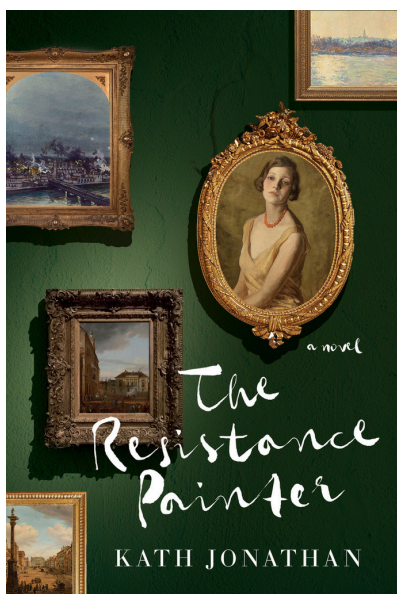
A resident of Toronto, KATH JONATHAN is a poetry, short story, and novel writer. Her work has been shortlisted for the Marina Nemat Award, a finalist for The Janice Colbert Poetry Award, longlisted for the Puritan's Thomas Morton Memorial Prize for short story, published in a Penguin Random House chapbook and in online literary magazines. Kath holds a Certificate in creative writing and an MA in English literature, both from the University of Toronto.



HOT LIST

The Resistance Painter

An instant bestseller!



RIGHTS SOLD: Simon & Schuster Canada (North America, English); Zazie Films (film/TV option)
PUB DATE: March 25, 2025
GENRE: Historical Fiction
PAGES: 448

An evocative work of historical fiction, examining the little-known story of Poland's extraordinary WWII resistance army and the contemporary lives of two artists, grandmother and granddaughter, which are inextricably entwined.

Warsaw 1939. Irena Marianowka's dreams of attending art school in Paris are crushed when the Nazis invade Poland. Instead, she joins the Home Army and, together with her resistance cell, risks her life guiding people to safety through the sewers of Warsaw. In 1941, after a harrowing mission, she returns home to learn that her sister, Lotka, has been abducted by the Gestapo. Determined to find her, Irena is willing to risk everything.

Toronto 2011. Jo Blum lives in Toronto with her beloved grandmother, a lauded painter of WWII and a decorated war hero. Jo has a budding career creating sculptures for grave sites based on the life stories of her dying clients. Her recorded interviews with Stefan, her new Polish client, unveil a heroic wartime past eerily similar to her grandmother's. But Jo's quest to uncover the truth about Stefan and her grandmother opens an explosive Pandora's box with shockwaves that threaten everything she's known about her family.

The Resistance Painter will resonate with fans of *Woman with the Blue Star*, *The Book of Lost Names*, *The Tattooist of Auschwitz*, *The German Girl*, and *The Dutch Wife*, confronting questions about the accuracy of the stories we tell about our lives and whether buried secrets should stay buried.

HOT LIST

PRAISE for *The Resistance Painter* A *Toronto Star* and *The Globe and Mail* INSTANT BESTSELLER!



"Examining sacrifice, selflessness, and resilience, Jonathan's atmospheric debut is both timely and timeless." —Toronto Star

"The novel touches on what are still hot points today—particularly issues of antisemitism and collaboration versus resistance. Jonathan presents both sides with a great deal of compassion, leaving readers to take their own vote." —The Winnipeg Free Press

"... an insightful, emotional, beautifully written debut." —whatsbetterthanbooks.com

"What sets *The Resistance Painter* apart is Jonathan's attention to detail, an intricate puzzle with thousands of pieces, which the author masterfully snaps into place." —orilliamatters.com

"With its moving plot and writing, this book will definitely be hitting my list of top ten reads for 2025." —the52book.club

"The story of the Hitler's invasion of Poland has been neglected by historical novelists. Kath Jonathan has leapt into the breach with great success. *The Resistance Painter* is an inspiring tale of suffering, courage, fortitude, and sisterly love." —Roberta Rich, bestselling author of *The Jazz Club Spy*

"An elegant, riveting, dual-timeline novel about betrayals that haunt generations, and the redemptive power of art." —Genevieve Graham, #1 bestselling author of *The Secret Keeper*

"This dramatic story pays tribute to the youthful resistance fighters who risked their lives hundreds of times in the underground sewers of Warsaw, saving their fellow citizens from certain death. At times I had to lay down the book, unable to read for my tears of rage and sorrow. *The Resistance Painter* illuminates a forgotten chapter of Polish history, one that deserves to be floodlit for all eternity." —Elinor Florence, bestselling author *Finding Flora*

"*The Resistance Painter* offers a compelling, vivid portrait of the struggles and sacrifices of Poland's Home Army, seen through the eyes of a young woman committed not only to the defence of her country, but to documenting the true face of war. Kath Jonathan is a bright new voice in Canadian historical fiction!" —Bryn Turnbull, internationally bestselling author of *The Berlin Apartment*

HOT LIST

LAURA NOWLIN



LAURA NOWLIN is the international bestselling author of duology *If He Had Been with Me* and *If Only I Had Told Her*, as well as standalone *This Song is (Not) for You*. She holds a BA in English with an emphasis in Creative Writing from Missouri State University. She lives in St. Louis with her family.

RIGHTS SOLD: Pan Macmillan (ANZ); Hachette UK/Corsair (UK + Commonwealth, excluding ANZ and Canada)

CATEGORY: Novella Collection

GENRE: Literary Fiction

WORD COUNT: ~75K

THEMES: feminism; women's issues; mental health; experimental; thriller; speculative

GRAVITY, BOX, PRIME



The explosive adult novella collection from the author of BookTok Viral Sensation and international bestseller *If He Had Been with Me*

In this hotly-anticipated adult debut from the international and #1 *New York Times* bestselling author of *If He Had Been with Me*, Laura Nowlin takes readers on a journey through modern feminist interpretations in three riveting novellas spanning space and time:

Beginning with *GRAVITY*, we follow a disturbed flight attendant caught in the repetitive trap of her job. As she seeks relief from the torment of her past, she escapes into novels until she becomes a book inside herself. We are propelled, hands over our eyes, to the terrifying conclusion.

Followed by *I WAS BORN IN A BOX*,—a domestic thriller meets cyber noir. In a world where the education crisis and nursing shortage was fixed with CreatedHuman™ technology, one self-aware A.I. is rapidly gaining memories that will pose untold problems for her fiancé and his ultra-wealthy family.

And ending with *PRIME*, in which a prehistoric woman is exiled from her community after surviving a lightning strike. What follows is a completely new kind of story that spans thousands of years and is a searing indictment of patriarchal systems.

DAYLE FURLONG



DAYLE FURLONG is the author of the novel *Saltwater Cowboys*, a Toronto Public Library 2015 Dewey Diva Pick of the Year, praised by the National Post as showing Furlong's "talent for painterly depictions of rural landscape and small-town life," and a collection of poetry entitled *Open Slowly*. Her short-fiction has appeared in journals in Canada, the US, and New Zealand, has been awarded an Award of Merit from Disquiet International, and was a finalist in *december* Magazine's 2018 Curt Johnson Prose Award. She is a graduate of the Humber College School for Writers and has an MSc in Creative Writing from the University of Edinburgh in Scotland. She works in the University of Toronto's School of Continuing Studies Creative Writing Department. Her collection of fiction entitled *Lake Effect & Other Stories* was published by Cormorant Books (Summer, 2022).



FICTION

UNTO THE DAY

In the spring of 1880, wealthy politician and *The Globe and Mail* editor George Brown was at the height of his career when he was shot by a disgruntled poet who worked in the newspaper's boiler room. Brown's legacy as founder of the modern Liberal party; fierce abolitionist; industrialist and preeminent Father of Confederation made an undeniable impact. Not without his flaws, Brown infamously disliked the Irish and arrogantly declared that women should not vote.

In this deeply imagined work of historical fiction narrated through the perspective of characters most impacted by him, readers witness the struggle of a motherless Irish domestic in fear and awe of Brown; his wife, Anne, a suffragette who is caught between devotion and defiance of her husband's authority; and the world-weary poet who seethes with resentment, harbouring notions of revenge.

Immersive, epic, and emotionally moving, *Unto the Day* is an intelligent, captivating literary feat.



RIGHTS SOLD: Dundurn (North
America, English; Audio, World)

PUB DATE: Fall 2026

GENRE: Historical Fiction

LENGTH: ~92K words

THEMES: Canada, history,
education, drama, assassination,
immigration

NAOMI K. LEWIS



NAOMI K. LEWIS is the author of the novel *Cricket in a Fist* (2008), the short story collection *I Know Who You Remind Me Of* (2012), and the memoir *Tiny Lights for Travellers* (2019), which was shortlisted for the Governor General's Award for nonfiction and the City of Calgary W.O. Mitchell Book Prize as well winning the Vine Award for nonfiction, the Pinsky Givon Family Prize for nonfiction, and the Wilfrid Eggleston Award for nonfiction.

With Aaron Giovannone, she writes middle grade fiction under the pseudonym Kit Francis.

She co-edited the anthology *Shy* (2013) and was previously employed as an associate editor at the magazines *Legacy* and *Alberta Views*. Naomi has served as writer in residence at the Calgary Public Library, The University of New Brunswick, and MacEwan University, and she works as an editor at Freehand Books in Calgary.



FICTION

RILEY MALLORY



In an alternate 2016, Dana Horowitz, a former adjunct English professor, navigates a world dominated by a thriving space-travel industry and a societal collapse triggered by that industry's effects. When Dana reconnects with her childhood friend Riley Mallory, whose life is threatened by liver cancer, she volunteers to care for Riley during her six-month induced hibernation for a revolutionary treatment.

Dana and Riley's intense friendship is explored through flashbacks, revealing a history of betrayal and toxicity, as well as a world that slowly diverges from our own beginning with a successful Challenger space-shuttle launch in 1986. As Dana becomes increasingly entangled in Riley's life, she discovers her friend's disturbing secrets, and grapples with the realization that their bond may not be as genuine as she believed.

Outside, society is in rapid decline. The news feed, telephones, and the transportation system in Dana's neighbourhood stop working, and a fence goes up to keep the rabble out space-tech millionaires' enclave nearby. Though Dana would rather stay inside and wait for things to return to normal—and for Riley to wake up—it becomes impossible to ignore the chaos. As Riley comes to and finds herself in a car speeding out of the city, Dana has to face that this old friend is not her soulmate, but a virtual stranger. Riley is not what Dana wants her to be—and nothing is what it seems.

For fans of *Tomorrow and Tomorrow and Tomorrow* by Gabrielle Zevin and *The Glass Hotel* by Emily St. John Mandel, *Riley Mallory* skillfully blends literary and commercial/speculative qualities.

RIGHTS SOLD: NeWest (Canada, English)

PUB DATE: Spring 2027

GENRE: Speculative

THEMES: alternative history, coming of age, space
exploration

FICTION

City Rising: *The Shanghai Tetralogy*

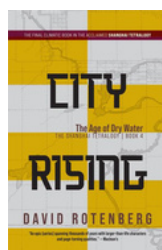
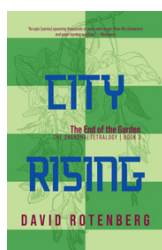
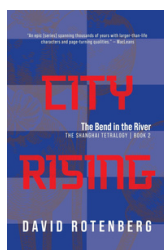
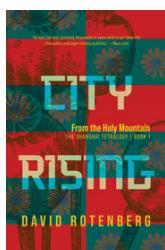


Book 1, From the Holy Mountain

Book 2, The Bend in the River

Book 3, The End of the Garden

Book 4, The Age of Dry Water



GENRE: Historical Fiction
(trade paperback)

RIGHTS SOLD: At Bay Press
(North America, English)

BOOK 1: November 9, 2023;
PAGES: 350

BOOK 2: February 7, 2025;
PAGES: 375

BOOK 3: June 10, 2025;
PAGES: 375

BOOK 4: September 23, 2025;
PAGES: 375

On the Hua Shan (the Holy Mountain) 250 years before Christ, the most powerful man in the world, the First Emperor bequeaths a talisman—a narwhal tusk with carvings depicting the growth of Shanghai for the next 2500 years—to his three trusted followers: the Bodyguard, his favourite Courtesan, and his Head Confucian. The warning from the First Emperor before he commits suicide is to watch for the White Ships on Water and so the progeny of the three who are entrusted with the Tusk do. Then, in 1841 they arrive—British Men of War ships. And opium.

City Rising tells the story of two destitute Baghdadi Jews who become opium lords, their battles against the powerful British opium companies, and the boys' eventual love of the City at the Bend in the River—Shanghai.

"An epic [series] spanning thousands of years with larger-than-life characters and page-turning qualities."—MacLeans

"Rotenberg's take on the street life, bureaucracy, and sheer mass of Shanghai cleverly captures a wonderful, baffling city."—Toronto Star

"A massive, fascinating, and powerful [series] that spans genres, maybe confounds them. [Rotenberg] possesses a prodigious memory for atmosphere and place."

—Jurgen Gothe

DAVID ROTENBERG is a professor emeritus of theatre studies at York University, where he taught graduate students for over 25 years. He has released 12 novels which have been published by Penguin, Simon and Schuster, McArthur and Company, St. Martin's Press, and ECW. His novels have been optioned in the past for major motion picture adaptation. *City Rising* is presently in negotiation with London producers. He is the founder and artistic director of the world-renowned actor training institute - Pro Actors Lab. *City Rising* is the first of four books in the 'Shanghai Tetralogy' and is based on true events and explores the epic stories of two Iraqi-Jews, and the renowned port city across several centuries.



FICTION

Pitfall

Terry Kirk's *Pitfall* is a gripping historical thriller and a stunning debut.

Frank Cork is head trader at Chicago's leading brokerage firm. It's October 1929, and Frank has made a killing trading wheat futures on the city's commodities exchange. At thirty-two, Frank and his wife, Katrina, have climbed from the South Side to the stony northern suburbs. They're at the top of their game in their stunning modernist home with two young children. But on October 29, 1929, Frank watches in the trading pit as his fortune is wiped out in a single day. Some traders skulk home while others lurk in the shadows of the Clark Street Bridge. Frank drags himself to Grand Central Station. Hawkers scream, "Black Tuesday, Market Crash," as Frank staggers onto the nearest train.

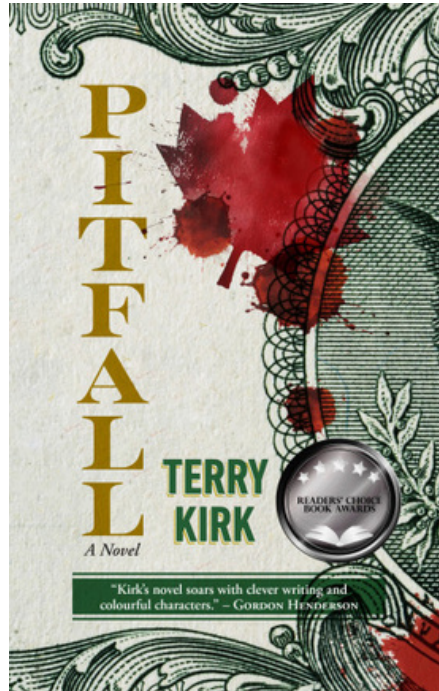
Flattened by shame, the fallen trader finally debarks a thousand miles later as his train crosses the border into Saskatchewan. Holed up in a shed on the Canadian Prairies, Frank wrestles with how to redeem himself and return home. The only opportunity in sight is selling Canadian whiskey to the Chicago mob. Frank faces setbacks at every turn, including a terrifying visit to the still in the tunnels under Moose Jaw. In Chicago, Frank's firm is looking for him. Was it suicide? Murder? Everyone's a suspect, from the managing partner to the mob-boss mayor.

"Vividly constructed. Layered and compelling." —*Publishers Weekly*

"Kirk's novel soars with clever writing and colourful characters."
—Gordon Henderson

"A plot that features a keen sense of what makes a good tale, impeccable historical research, a deep understanding of market forces—and a first-hand knowledge of rural Canada at ground level." —Anthony Wilson-Smith, President of Historica Canada and former Editor of *Maclean's* magazine.

TERRY KIRK is a lawyer and writer living in downtown Toronto. She studied journalism and English literature and holds a Juris Doctor (Law), and Masters' degree focused on digital transformation. Widely recognized as an innovator in the finance and fintech sector, these skills are incorporated into her fiction.



RIGHTS SOLD: At Bay Press (North America, English)
PUB DATE: June 20, 2025
GENRE: Historical Thriller
PAGES: 350



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