

# MANUSCRIPT

THE BOOK CLUB  
FOR WOMEN  
AROUND THE  
WORLD

THE DEBUT ISSUE

VOLUME 01 | ISSUE 01 | MANUSCRIPTMAG.CA

JENNIFER  
ROBSON

DISHES ON HER NEW BOOK AND  
HINTS AT HER NEXT NOVEL

+

THE PERFECT BOOK  
NOOK FOR YOU

BOOK RELEASE  
CALENDAR 2019

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## ONCE UPON A TIME... THERE WAS AN IDEA

First and foremost, we at MANUSCRIPT would like to wish you, our amazing readers, a very happy new year!

2018 was such a crazy year! A lot happened socially, politically and of course, in literature.

With the start of a new year, comes the debut of our new literary magazine, MANUSCRIPT. MANUSCRIPT Magazine is so happy to be able to offer you a quarterly digital magazine that was created for readers, by readers.

So many literary magazines forget about the every day reader, like you! With this in mind, MANUSCRIPT gives you insightful author interviews, a quarterly book release calendar, interesting articles, bookish fun, fandom and more, all in one place.

MANUSCRIPT started as an idea between two college friends, Leila Goreil and Ashley Macdonald, who fused their friendship and love of reading to create MANUSCRIPT. We are a testament that you can live your dream, and that anything's possible when you have vision and focus.

Everyone at MANUSCRIPT has worked so hard to bring you the best content possible so that you can love MANUSCRIPT as much as we do.

At MANUSCRIPT we want to give our readers a magazine that speaks to them. No matter your age, gender or your favourite genre, MANUSCRIPT has something for you.

While reading MANUSCRIPT, let us know what you do and don't like by sending a letter to our editors. Don't be shy; we'd love to hear from you! Send your letters to the editors at: [manuscriptmagazine@outlook.com](mailto:manuscriptmagazine@outlook.com).

It's a new year and MANUSCRIPT is a new magazine! Celebrate with us by reading a new author, building that funky bookcase you saw online or creating yourself the perfect book nook! Whatever you do, share it with MANUSCRIPT on our Facebook, Twitter or Instagram and use #MANUSCRIPTMagReaders

From all of us at MANUSCRIPT, we sincerely hope that you enjoy our first issue. Now, turn the page!

Sincerely,

*Leila & Ashley*

*Happy New Year!*

Download, share, read and repeat!

Visit [manuscriptmag.ca](http://manuscriptmag.ca)





# MANUSCRIPT

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## SPECIAL THANKS TO

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Hamilton Public Library  
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Irina Pinte  
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## COVER IMAGE





Natalie Brown / Tangerine Photo

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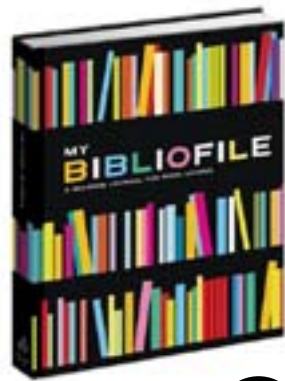
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## READING RADAR



1

Keep track of your books with these awesome book list books and book tracking journals. Available here.



2

Protect your beloved books with a handmade book sleeve. Shop here.



3

Enjoy a curated book box of goodies tied to the theme of the monthly book pick.

Sign up and receive 10% off your first order here.

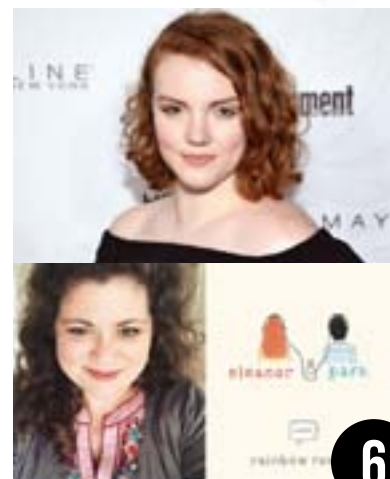


5

If you share your books with friends and family, or maybe you've always wanted to be a librarian? Whatever you do, you need the Personal Library Kit.

Who doesn't love BookOutlet.ca? Now you can show off your love with their new signature tote bag!

4



6

Rumour has it Shannon Purser will assume the role of Eleanor in Rainbow Rowell's popular novel, Eleanor & Park. There's also news of Rowell writing a sequel!



Leila  
Goreil  
Co-Founder  
Editor



Ashley  
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## LET'S WRAP-UP AND ROLL-OUT!

There is something bittersweet about finishing a book, similar to finishing up another year. 2018 was the year we launched the idea for MANUSCRIPT Magazine and here we are to present to you our first issue!

I'm so excited to share with you some amazing authors and bookish news that is sure to delight. Our interview with one of my favourite authors, Jennifer Robson is sure to excite readers of the historical fiction / romance genre.

My interview with Erin Woodward, founder of The Girly Bookclub was enlightening. I'm sure you'll be logging on after you read about it to see how you can sign up too!

The round-up for our first issue, hosts a blend of content for both adult and young adult readers. We've got lots more up our sleeve for our next issue, so stay tuned!

Thank you to everyone who helped us out on our first issue!

## HARD WORK AND EXCITEMENT!

After months of hard work, MANUSCRIPT has launched its first issue!

Having always been an avid reader, I almost always had my nose stuck in a book while I was growing up. As I got older, I found that I wasn't reading as much and in 2018 I joined Goodreads. I set a goal for myself to read 15 books and I read 42!

Being back in the book community, I'm loving all the love and support MANUSCRIPT has gotten, as well me personally.

Although MANUSCRIPT has been an idea for about 10 years now, I'm ecstatic that it's finally come to fruition.

When my co-founder and good friend, Leila, came to me with the idea for MANUSCRIPT, I was immediately on board. A magazine for readers, by readers is just what the reading community needs and I'm so honoured to be a part of it.

I sincerely hope that you enjoy our first issue and look forward to even more great content in our next issue, coming out in April 2019!

*"Today a reader, tomorrow a leader." – Margaret Fuller*



# ASHLEY’S ANGLE

## Annotating: Yay or Nay?

By Ashley Macdonald

Books should most definitely not be annotated.

Honestly in my opinion, anyone who writes in, dog-ears, rips, or bends pages in a book can’t be trusted. I have books that are sacred to me, such as the *Harry Potter* series by J.K. Rowling, which I’m not sure if I would trust anyone to touch.

Unfortunately, I had the disappointing experience of lending a couple of books in the *Black Dagger Brotherhood* by J.R. Ward and getting them back in less than perfect condition.

One of the books, *Blood Vow*, I had yet to read and it came back with the spine all cracked.

I later found out that the person I had leant to folds the front cover around the back of the book and my heart dropped. I just about felt physically ill at the thought.

When I borrow a book from someone, I still treat the book as if it were my own. I would expect that others would do the same, however, in my case it’s the complete opposite of myself.

As I should have properly put it, when you are borrowing a book from

someone, **please** give it back to them in the same condition as you got it so that there aren’t more people who are horrified to find their book mangled (even if it’s in their opinion).

Has this happened to you? We want to hear about it!

Send us your thoughts and your experiences, good, bad, or otherwise.



## How One Book Club Connects Women Around the World

By Leila Goreil

Erin Woodward, founder of The Girly Book Club was in London, England in 2008 and had the simple idea of finding new friends in a foreign city.

Eleven years later, and with more than 120 volunteers and more than 80,000 members worldwide, The Girly Book Club has fostered friendships and networking amongst women with a shared love of books.

“Book clubs aren’t new. Our approach is simple, by providing a safe and fun environment for women to meet and share their love of reading, they can connect and be social.” Woodward says over the phone.

Since 2008, The Girly Book Club has been growing their reach by establishing relationships with publishers of all size, in New York, Toronto and London.

Notable authors like Blake Crouch, Phaedra Patrick and Kate Quinn have participated in the Virtual Girly Book Club, by engaging in online video chats with book club members from around the world.

Each month, The Girly Book Club offers its members globally, to vote on their next book, and chapter leaders are to establish the book club meeting around predetermined discussion questions.

and more.

Joining The Girly Book Club has a small fee attached, which helps the book club provide access to members to enter contest giveaways, attend events, receive swag and more.

Patrons are able to obtain their own copy of the book of the month by either borrowing from their local library, purchasing online or at a local bookstore.

The Girly Book Club makes being in a book club stress free. You read the book before the monthly meeting, usually the last week of the month and you download the discussion questions ahead of time. Then you join your chapter either in person or online and through The Girly Book Club’s social media.

So far, The Girly Book Club is the largest of its kind, having chapters in more than 12 countries and 90 cities.

“We have 50 chapters in Canada right now, but we’re looking to grow.” Says Woodward who is currently living in Toronto, Ontario.

As a book club hosted by women for women, they respectfully only

allow female or female identifying members.

They do however read books by both men and women.

Although The Girly Book Club is based

out of North America, they currently only offer English books and only support English speaking clubs at this time.

When asked about what she’s learned, Woodward says “With a book club being based abroad, we have our roadblocks and we’ve had to close down chapters, but we



A group of The Girly Bookclub members from Whitby, Ontario. Image source: TheGirlyBookClub.com

have a strong network of women and we’ve done pretty well.”

If you’re interested in being a member or starting your own chapter of The Girly Book Club, you can visit [www.girlybookclub.com](http://www.girlybookclub.com) or [www.meetup.com](http://www.meetup.com) to find a chapter near you.

## TBR Lists: The Reader Resolution Challenge Explained

By Leila Gorel

Does the idea of your TBR pile cause you to sweat? If so, you are not alone. The month of January is synonymous with resolutions in everything from weight loss to learning a new language, but what about those evergrowing, always exceeding TBR lists?

A TBR list, otherwise known as a To Be Read list, is the list that every reader has whether he/she chooses to admit it.

There are all kinds of ways to keep track of the books you have read versus the books that you would like

to read. You can find book tracking journals, digital bookshelf apps and even sites such as **goodreads.com** where you can keep track of what you have read, what you’re currently reading as well as what you’d like to read next.

The TBR can be a big stress for readers and many know that the number of books on those lists will outlive them more than one time over. You’d probably have to read one, or two books a day just to get through the average TBR list!

Today there are many ways to engage with books, authors and more, such as MANUSCRIPT magazine for example. You can see what other readers are reading, check out latest releases and sign up for emails and social media from book publishers.

With all this information, no wonder readers feel stress! The TBR list is the reading resolution that never seems to be conquered, at least for most. For those of our readers who have conquered their reading lists, you are the exception. We bow down to you.



A simple idea of meeting new people has cultivated a book club of over 80,000 members.

The club chapters meet once a month, and whether you’ve read the book or not, you can participate in the discussion, log onto their website and watch the author talks

Can’t find a group meeting near you?

There are book club chapters all over the world, but should you be stuck without an option, you can still read along and meet new friends!

Log onto their website and find the current book, read and get ready for their virtual book club. Visit here and join the discussion.





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Mississauga Symphony Orchestra  
Giant Book Sale 2018

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By Ashley Macdonald

Mississauga Symphony Orchestra (MSO) holds their Annual Giant Book Sale each year in fall. Since its conception, it has been held on the lower level of the Sheridan Centre mall in Mississauga.

As the Sheridan Centre started to expand and grow, so did the book sale. With more and more donations coming in by the box-load, MSO had to find a bigger space. The closure of Eaton’s was perfect and the MSO took full advantage of the large space, where they held the book sale for the next several years.

However, it wasn’t long before Eaton’s

was filled with office space and once again, they had to move. This time, MSO decided to hold it in the hallways of the Sheridan Centre. Patrons already expected the sale to be in the mall so why change a good thing?

This year, the 21st annual book sale recorded more than 60,000 books of all genres, board games and puzzles. Other notable donations included CDs, DVDs, sheet music, and vinyl records. There’s a reason it’s called **giant**.

All items sold are donations from wonderful people in the community and the proceeds go towards supporting MSO and Mississauga

Symphony Youth Orchestra (MSYO). This sale is a vital fundraiser used to present and support each concert season, including the opportunity to perform within Hammerson Hall, a world-class theatre located in the Heart of the Living Arts Centre.

Anyone who would like to donate or help with the book sale is urged to contact [usedbooksale@mississaugasymphony.ca](mailto:usedbooksale@mississaugasymphony.ca). Donations are accepted all year from October 17th to August 23rd. Volunteers are accepted year-round for the book sale and any other events held by MSO.



Prize-Winning Author Writes Page-Turning Bright Idea

By Leila Goreil

Matthew Sullivan, who won the Colorado Book Award for General Fiction, is the author who wrote *Midnight at the Bright Ideas Bookstore* (2017).

Sullivan was kind enough to take some time to answer a few questions about his latest book and hints at his next writing project.

**MANUSCRIPT: How did the idea for *Midnight at the Bright Ideas Bookstore* come to be?**

**Sullivan:** My main inspiration came from the years I worked at an indie bookstore in Denver, the atmosphere of which I drew upon shamelessly in the setting of the novel. There were many other influences, as well, such as a customer at the store who used to use a utility knife to cut creepy images out of books for his own sordid purposes. And when I was growing up in suburban Denver, there was a real “Hammerman” — the killer in the book — who attacked and murdered a family with a hammer, without motive, in the middle of the night, and got away with it. He haunted me for years, so it’s no surprise to me that he made his way into this story.

**MANUSCRIPT: The story is very tightly woven between the characters, yet there is this sense of loneliness. Were you mindful of this while writing the characters?**

**Sullivan:** I feel like creating characters — much like the act of reading — is a way to inhabit someone else’s existence, and when I inhabited these people, they certainly felt lonely together.

**MANUSCRIPT: *Midnight at the Bright Ideas Bookstore* centres on the character of Lydia. Why a lead female character and not a male character?**

**Sullivan:** On a subconscious level, Lydia simply emerged, and I believe wholeheartedly in following the story wherever it leads you, especially in early drafts, and especially if I’m intrigued by a character (as I definitely was with Lydia). On a more conscious level, when I started this book, I had recently finished writing about a male character who was sort of an alter-ego of

myself, so I knew I wanted to go in a different direction this time. I was sick of him!

**MANUSCRIPT: The idea of the past and the present are always seen as parallel things but for your character Lydia, they seem to be intersected. Was this intended to be a key theme for your story?**

**Sullivan:** Absolutely. For whatever reason, I didn’t want to write a “typical” mystery; instead I wanted to write something that was as much about character and concept as it was about plot. Toward that end, I headed into this story with a full awareness of violent crime, and the way that some events echo outward through time and impact many other people besides those at their epicentre.



**MANUSCRIPT: What was the writing process like for you when you wrote *Midnight at the Bright Ideas Bookstore*?**

**Sullivan:** Gruelling, enjoyable, redeeming. I teach full-time at a community college, and I have kids and am married, and I stay very busy, so this book took me years to write, then years to rewrite once I was lucky enough to find an agent and an editor. It was often brutal, but I love writing, so most of the time I endured the process well. There was one low point where, after a particularly harsh rejection, I almost buried it forever in a drawer. But I let a year or two pass, then got it out again and hunkered down because I suppose I liked working on it, and felt good about what I was doing, even if others at the time didn’t.

**MANUSCRIPT: Is there another book in the works for you? If so, can you tell us something about it?**

**Sullivan:** I’m working on a mystery novel about a woman who grows up in a small town in rural Washington State, where I live. She leaves home as a teenager and on the night that she returns, some years later, she is murdered, and her toddler is discovered at the crime scene. I’m hoping and trying, as always, to balance out the grim crime stuff with a compelling atmosphere and some colourful personalities. I’m enjoying writing it, but I don’t know when it will be done.



# Coming Out in Books

By Ashley Macdonald

Coming out is a very difficult topic, not only for LGBTQ+ youth but also adults. Although society is, supposedly, becoming more familiar and accepting of the LGBTQ+ community, there’s still a lot of backlash.

For decades, the LGBTQ+ community has been fighting for their rights. They want to love, have a family, and not be afraid to step outside for fear of being attacked.

However, the community isn’t just afraid to go outside. Thousands, if not millions, of LGBTQ+ people struggle within their own homes.

In your teen years, you’re trying to figure out who you are. Between raging hormones, peer pressure, and the fear of being bullied, LGBTQ+ teens are more at risk than ever. That’s not even factoring in the parental pressures to do well and be perfect.

So many LGBTQ+ novels, especially YA novels, centre around a character who is gay or questioning and the struggles they face. *Simon vs. the Homo Sapiens Agenda* (Becky Albertalli), *Freakboy* (Kristin Elizabeth Clark), *The Book of David* (Anonymous) are just a few novels depicting this.

Although most books end in positivity, it’s not always the case, especially when it’s reality. In at least

# Standing up to Banned Books

By Ashley Macdonald

The week of September 23-29, 2018 marked Banned Books Week in America. Though Canada has their own Freedom to Read Week from February 24 to March 2, 2019, MANUSCRIPT wanted to celebrate both!

According to the American Library Association (ALA), the top two reasons for challenging books are because the material is considered “sexually explicit” or uses offensive language.

Challenging a book is admiral,

however, censorship becomes an issue when people take the right to choose for themselves and then want to choose for everyone. This is what is happening in libraries and classrooms.

Attempting to remove a book from public access, use in a classroom, or circulation in a library violates everyone’s right to choose. Everyone has the right to choose what content is appropriate for them and to take that away silences writers and authors, which, in turn, violates the

Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms.

Every year, the ALA Office for Intellectual Freedom (OIF) compiles a list of challenged books across America. This year is no different.

This year’s theme is “Banning Books Silences Stories.” The theme offers a reminder that everyone needs to speak out against censorship. Now more than ever, people need to speak out against censorship as more of it comes to light.

“I’m supposed to be the one that decides when and where and how and who knows and how I get to say it. That’s supposed to be my thing...”  
– *Simon vs. the Homo Sapiens Agenda*, Becky Albertalli

Society has come a lot farther than it was in the 60’s but a lot of LGBTQ+ people are still very wary of the world around them.

Think of the Pulse Nightclub shooting in Orlando, Florida in the summer of 2016. It was the worst mass shooting in America to date with 49 people killed and every one of them was part of the LGBTQ+ community or an ally. It’s not hard to see why people are afraid.

Ellen Hopkins wrote a book depicting just this, titled *Perfect*. In it, Cara appears to have the perfect life but she struggles under the pressure of being the perfect child with a clean record, who does as she’s told. With overbearing parents who don’t seem to care much for their children, Cara takes to hiding who she really is until she can’t and has to face her parents and the rest of the world.

one of the aforementioned books, the teen was not accepted and had to escape a hostile environment. This can often be the case when someone comes out of the closet and is tired of hiding who they truly are. In other cases, families silently agree to the ‘don’t ask, don’t tell’ mantra. Neither case is healthy for the person involved.

All of this brings up the question of why people have to come out in the first place. Why is straight the norm? What would happen if people reacted the same way to a loved one coming out as straight as they do when that person comes out as LGBTQ+? Let us know your thoughts.

If you or a loved one is struggling with sexual orientation or identity, there are resources at your disposal. You are not alone.

- Resources**
- youthline.ca
  - Rainbow Health Ontario
  - Canadian Mental Health Association

## Top 10 Challenged Books of 2018

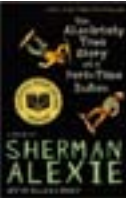
**Thirteen Reasons Why** by Jay Asher

**Reason for Banning:** This YA novel was challenged and banned for discussing suicide.



**The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian** by Sherman Alexie

**Reason for Banning:** Acknowledges issues such as poverty, alcoholism, and sexuality, as well as profanity and sexually explicit situations.



**Drama** by Raina Telgemeier

**Reason for Banning:** Includes LGBT characters and is considered “confusing.”



**The Kite Runner** by Khaled Hosseini

**Reason for Banning:** Includes sexual violence and was thought to “lead to terrorism” and “promote Islam.”



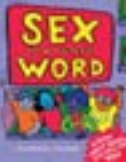
**George** by Alex Gino

**Reason for Banning:** Includes a transgender child.



**Sex is a Funny Word** by Cory Silverberg and illustrated by Fiona Smyth

**Reason for Banning:** Addresses sex education and is believed to lead children to “want to have sex or ask questions about sex.”



**To Kill a Mockingbird** by Harper Lee

**Reason for Banning:** Contains violence and its use of the N-word.



**The Hate U Give** by Angie Thomas

**Reason for Banning:** Considered “pervasively vulgar” and contains drug use, profanity, and offensive language.



**And Tango Makes Three** by Peter Parnell and Justin Richardson and illustrated by Henry Cole

**Reason for Banning:** Features a same-sex relationship.



**I Am Jazz** by Jessica Herthel and Jazz Jennings and illustrated by Shelagh McNicholas

**Reason for Banning:** Addresses gender identity.



## Recover Lost Queer History

*Katherina Hetzeldorfer was a Butch Hero*

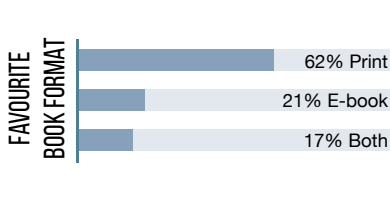
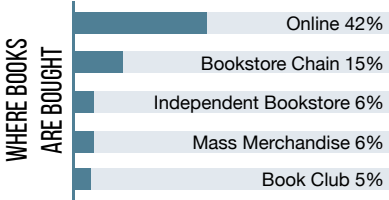
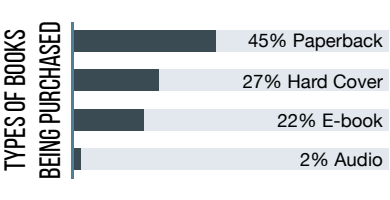
Katherina Hetzeldorfer was tried, and then drowned in the Rhine, for a crime that didn’t have a name in 1477.

Hetzeldorfer had moved to the city of Speier, Germany, from Nuremberg with a woman who, during the trial, Hetzeldorfer claimed was a sister. They had lived in Speier for two years before Hetzeldorfer was arrested. The two had apparently confided in members of the community, describing the nature of their relationship as being like that of a husband and wife. After intense cross-examination, Hetzeldorfer revealed that the woman was not a sibling, but that they had had a long-standing sexual relationship.

—Excerpt and artwork from *Butch Heroes* by Ria Brodell

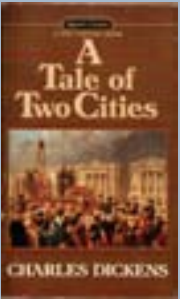




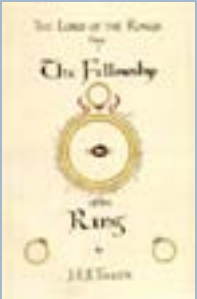


Best-Selling Books of All Time

Book sales numbers are incredibly difficult to track as there is no central depository of book sales. Also, because religious texts such as the Bible (best-selling book of all time by Guinness World Records) and the Quran are often given out publicly, they are impossible to measure.



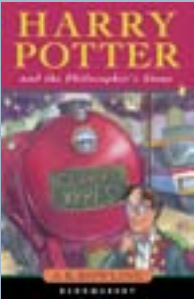
200 million



150 million



140 million



120 million

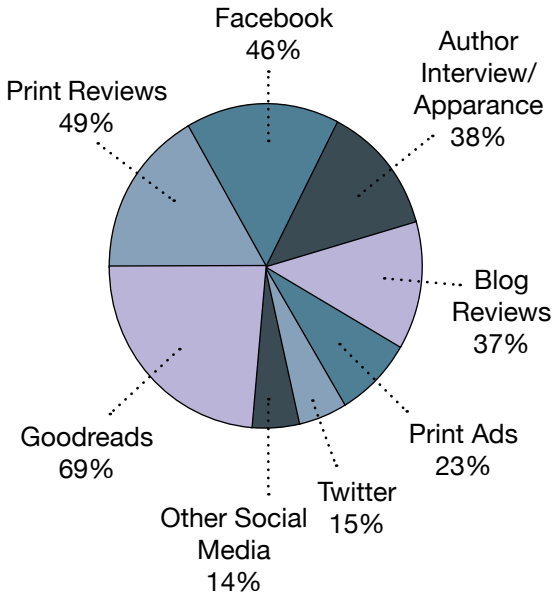


100 million

Countries That Read the Most



How Readers Find Books



Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows

Is the fastest selling book of fiction in 24 hours with 8.3 million copies sold

Between 2008 and 2015, eBook revenue grew from \$270 million to more than

+5 billion

+145 Million

Books currently published worldwide. About 2 million books are printed worldwide every year.

Isabel Coixet Takes the Story of a Bookshop to the Big Screen

By Leila Goreil

International filmmaker Isabel Coixet took some time to answer a few questions for MANUSCRIPT readers about her latest film adaption, The Bookshop, (2018).

**MANUSCRIPT: The Bookshop by Penelope Fitzgerald was originally published in 1978. What about this story inspired you to adapt it into a movie?**

**Coixet:** I discovered the Penelope Fitzgerald novel, many years ago and I was totally mesmerized by it. I'm an avid reader and one of my childhood dreams was to run a bookshop and be entered by books all day long. Taking the novel to the big screen was a way to accomplish a childhood dream. I felt also very connected to Florence Green. Florence Green c'est moi!

**MANUSCRIPT: Were there any challenges in creating this movie?**

**Coixet:** The challenge as in many literary adaptations is to be faithful to the core of the book and at the same time, doing something fresh and different. I deeply admired and respected the novel, but I was very aware of all the trimmings and things I had to do to take it to the screen. I got rid of things I loved in the novel (the supernatural presence in the bookshop), but on the screen, they just didn't work.

**MANUSCRIPT: Did you ever think about changing the ending of the movie?**

**Coixet:** The ending was tricky because it was brutal but somehow I didn't feel it belonged to the film. The relationship with Christine was



against the current like her and being treated like an outsider. Being a female filmmaker is like being a bookseller in a town where nobody wants you there. But you don't go lightly. You fight to stay until the end.

**MANUSCRIPT: In 2014, you took a New Yorker's piece written by Katha Pollitt, titled Learning to Drive and made a movie. What is it about these stories that compels you to tell them in a visual way?**

**Coixet:** There are always stories which take hold of you. The Katha Pollitt piece in The New Yorker, at the origin of Learning to Drive, affected me at so many levels, I couldn't refuse the offer to make a film. When I read, I'm never in a filmmaker mood, but sometimes there's a spark, and I smell trouble: it's a sign I will not escape the fate of taking the work of someone else to the screen.

Visit, [bookshopthefilm.com](http://bookshopthefilm.com) for more information or to watch on digital and DVD.

Free-spirited widow Florence Green (Emily Mortimer, below) risks everything to open a bookshop in a conservative town. Image source: Isabel Coixet (above) Google Images/bookshopthefilm.com





# The Perfect Book Nook

By Ashley Macdonald

## 1. Set the atmosphere

It's a common scene for people on-screen to be sitting in their favourite chair, reading their favourite book with the fireplace giving off ambient light. Though, when you think about it, how practical is this? It looks like the perfect setting; who wouldn't want to sit in a cozy den, curled up with a book in a big comfy chair? I definitely would but it's just not practical.

Find a space that has enough light that you won't strain your eyes in the dark but not too bright that it blinds you. If you still want the flickering light, light a candle – this will also make the room smell warm and inviting. Curl up in a comfy chair or on your couch and pull out your book of the day. Don't worry about what you're wearing; wear something that's comfy. If you're going to be spending all day reading, you might as well be comfortable in your PJ's or lounge clothes.

## 2. Find your book

Not sure what to read? In these cold winter months, pull out a book to warm you up. Beach Town by Mary Kay Andrews follows a movie location scout in her struggle to find the perfect undiscovered beach town and to convince the town mayor to allow the movie shoot. Immersing yourself in a story of beaches and sunlight is sure to keep you warm during those long winter hours.

Want to read something to reflect the wintery season? Try the first novel in George R. R. Martin's series A Song of Ice and Fire: A Game of Thrones. Who hasn't heard of the Game of Thrones series on TV? Now, why not try reading it? This series will last you quite a while, as there are now seven books and counting but if you want to feel the cold returning to Winterfell while it's still blistery cold outside, then this is just for you.

Sure, watching the show on TV has its perks but you may agree that the phrase, "the book is always better" will ring true here as well.

## 3. Turn off your phone

There's nothing worse than reading a captivating book and having people constantly interrupting you. When all you want to do is read, phone calls, text messages, and social media notifications can be such a distraction. The easiest solution? Turn off your phone. If you don't want to do that, most phones these days have a "Do Not Disturb" option. Turn that on and your phone will only ping if someone calls you twice within a couple of minutes. One concern with doing this is that it's so easy to lose track of time when you really get into a book but setting an alarm will easily help with this. Even if you hit "Snooze" a couple of times (who wants to stop at the best part?) you'll still have to look at your screen, which gives you the chance to glance at the time.

## 4. Surround yourself with books

There's nothing better than being in your own personal library. By keeping some extra books around you, it will make any bookworm feel more at home. There's also the added bonus that when you finish a book, you can easily pick up the next book without having to go too far or even leaving the room. At times, you may get tired of the book you're reading – it happens to all of us. Take a break. Pick up one of the extra books and try that one out if you haven't yet read it. Maybe you'll find a diamond in the rough and then you can go back to the first book when you're done. On the other hand, maybe you pick up a classic that you want to re-read. You don't have to explain yourself if you want to take a break from one book to

read another, whether it's one that you've already read or not.

## 5. Soft background music

If you're the kind of person who doesn't like silence, put on some soothing music. Keep the volume low and don't play a lot of upbeat, fast tempo, heavy rock music. Try to keep the playlist as mellow and relaxing as you can without falling asleep. Think somewhere between spa music and Ed Sheeran. If that doesn't entice you, classical music is a classic (pardon the pun). Though, if all else fails, Spotify is a great resource. On Spotify you can browse through thousands of different playlists and even search browse by mood or activity. A simple search of "Listen while reading" can give you amazing results.

### OUR 5 FAVOURITE READING PLAYLISTS

- 1. For the reader, the writer and the dreamer - 8Tracks
- 2. Sex in the Library - 8Tracks
- 3. A Discover of Witches - Spotify
- 4. Books - Spotify
- 5. The Writer's Playlist- Spotify



MANUSCRIPT  
MANUSCRIPTMAG.CA



# FEATURE INTERVIEW



AND THIS IS HOW IT IS  
we go home  
and we shut our doors  
we don't sleep with them open  
for fear the world sees in  
really sees us  
ours our pain  
our mess  
things we can't brush into place  
make we've too afraid to show the world  
hearts  
loves wide

undry in a week. My girlfriend

I don't buy much anymore  
I used to walk in circles  
Around department stores  
And the curved edges of  
Barnyards  
Searching  
But it's all seemed to dissolve  
Into a more filling hunger  
One that reaches  
For the familiar black cotton  
And the food that's been  
because I've stopped  
and wander





## INTERVIEW: JENNIFER ROBSON

Getting to know the author behind *The Gown*

By Leila Goreil

For those of you who claim that history is boring, you have probably never picked up a book written by Jennifer Robson.

A “lifelong history nerd,” as she calls herself, Jennifer Robson pairs her academic background with her professional writing in what

can only be describe her work as transporting.

Robson, a former copy editor, first learned of the Great War from her father, acclaimed historian Stuart Robson.

Currently living in Toronto, ON with

her husband and young children, Robson holds a doctorate from Saint Antony’s College, University of Oxford and is the USA Today and #1 *Toronto Globe & Mail* bestselling author.

Her debut novel, *Somewhere in France* (2013) set the tone for her storytelling to be described as deft and engaging.

Robson’s academic background shines through in the most insightful and appreciated ways as she tells the stories of characters from all walks of life through the first and second world wars.

Fast forward and Robson has written *After the War is Over* (*Somewhere in France* #2, 2014), *Moonlight Over Paris* (*Somewhere in France* #3, 2016) and *Goodnight from London* (2017).

*The Gown* is her latest novel, published December 31, 2018, centres around two woven timelines, London in 1947 and Toronto in 2016.

Robson weaves a tale separated by time, yet connected by a fine thread that is life, through various events in history and the faces who live on.

In our interview with Jennifer Robson, we find out about the hardest scene that she’s had to write, her guest picks for a dinner party and more!

**MANUSCRIPT: You’ve written *The Gown*, what can you tell readers about why this specific story spoke to you?**

**Robson:** The genesis of *The Gown* came during a lunch with my editor and literary agent several years ago. We’d agreed that my next book – the one to follow *Goodnight from London* – should be set in the post-war period, and we’d also decided to have the royal wedding of 1947

as its backdrop.

From the beginning, I was really set against writing the story from the point of view of anyone in the royal family or their immediate circle. What I found compelling, instead, were the lives of the ordinary people who were peripherally involved with the wedding. People whose lives never made the headlines, but whose stories were fascinating all the same. And that’s what led me to the women who worked for Norman Hartnell.

**MANUSCRIPT: What has been the hardest scene to write out of any of your novels?**

**Robson:** Without giving too much away, there is a scene towards the end of *The Gown* in which one character is assaulted. I agonized over that scene for weeks. It was so hard to get the balance just right – to convey the horror of the assault, the pain felt by my character, and the utter wrongness of what was occurring, while also ensuring that it wasn’t so gratuitously violent that readers would be disgusted by

what was taking place. At one point I pulled back in my description – I second-guessed myself – and my editor made me restore the scene to its earlier version. Of course, she was right (she’s always right)!

**MANUSCRIPT: How do you select the names for book characters?**

**Robson:** I obsess over names! Too many historical novels are marred by character names that are completely anachronistic. A Victorian hero named Blake or Jared, for example, is implausible – such names don’t appear in 19th-century baptismal rolls or census documents. I usually start with census records that list the most common names in a character’s year of birth and then I start imagining which names might fit, whether my character has a nickname that he or she prefers, and whether he or she likes their name. That’s why Bennett in *Goodnight from London* asks people to call him Bennett, which is actually his surname, rather than Charles – it’s decided when he was still young that the original Charles Stuart was an idiot and wastrel and a terrible namesake. So he became Bennett to his friends.

**MANUSCRIPT: What was your favourite part of the writing process while writing *The Gown*?**

**Robson:** I really loved doing the research for *The Gown*. I went to Buckingham Palace to see the gown itself on display, I spent time at a bespoke hand embroidery atelier to learn some of the techniques employed by my characters, and best of all – by far the best – I met and interviewed Betty Foster, the last surviving seamstress who worked on the gown. I listened to

her talk for hours and hours and nearly everything she told me made its way into the book.

**MANUSCRIPT: What is one thing that you want readers to take away from reading *The Gown*?**

**Robson:** That the stories of people who lived and worked in the background of great historical events are just as interesting and



Jennifer Robson making her very own embroidery.

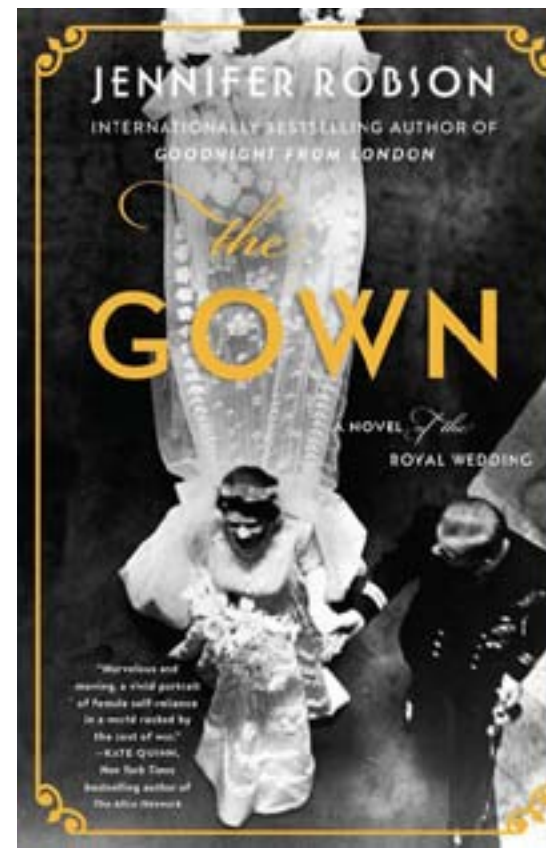
significant as the stories of the famous people who occupied the spotlight.

**MANUSCRIPT: Is there another book in the works?**

**Robson:** Yes, but I’m in the early stages so I’m nervous about giving too much away. Part of it is set in golden-age Hollywood, which is a period I’ve long had an interest in but have never researched properly. As you can imagine I’m doing a lot of reading right now.

**MANUSCRIPT: If you could tell your younger self one thing, what would it be?**

**Robson:** I’d tell myself to ignore the people who were pressuring me to decide on a career when I was still in university. It took me more than twenty years to figure out what I





wanted to do with my life, at least in a professional sense, and I don’t regret it one bit. If I’d started writing fiction when I was in my twenties it would have been awful stuff.

**MANUSCRIPT: What do you do when you’re not writing?**

**Robson:** I play catch-up with the rest of my life: I call friends I neglected while I was in my writer’s cave, sort out the disaster that is my home office, embark on organization projects that I always leave half-done, and mess around in my garden.

**MANUSCRIPT: Do you read while writing?**

**Robson:** If I’m not reading for research, I’m reading ARCs (Advanced Reader Copies), nearly always works of historical fiction, that have been sent to me for review blurbs. I have four on my nightstand right now.

**MANUSCRIPT: If there’s something your readers and fans should know, it’s that...**

**Robson:** I’m a really good cook but I hate cleaning up the kitchen afterwards.

\*Jennifer Robson’s *The Gown* went on sale December 31, 2018. Pick up your copy today wherever books are sold.

**LIGHTNING ROUND**

**Did you have a childhood nickname and if so, what was it?**

It was Jefner – that’s how I said my own name when I was a toddler.

**Tea or coffee?**

Coffee in the morning, tea in the afternoon. And always tea on rainy days.

**What are you currently reading?**

An ARC of *The Last Collection* by Jeanne Mackin.

**Favourite colour?**

Peacock blue.

**If you could go back in time, what year would it be?**

1066, but only if I get to bring some antibiotics along.

**You’re hosting a dinner party, name three people, living or dead that are dining with you.**

Emma Thompson, Adam Gopnik, Oscar Wilde

**Favourite social media app?**

Instagram

**Apple or PC?**

Apple

**What was the last gift you gave someone?**

A pair of fancy shoes to my tween daughter. She is still over the moon.

**Morning or night?**

Morning



*Helen Rappaport and the Romanov Family Uncovered*

By Jordanna Lageer

History has always been my favourite subject; it made sense to major in it for my Bachelors degree. It’s safe to say that history books, both fiction and non-fiction, take up a large majority of shelf space in my home because of that. But finding a decent book that allows the reader to be transported into a world that actually existed once upon a time; that is hard to accomplish. For those of us living in the Western Hemisphere, imagining what it must be like to live in Russia now, let alone at the turn of the 20th century is almost impossible.

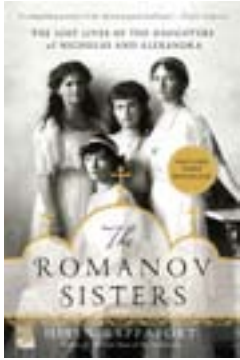
Helen Rappaport has woven a story based on first hand accounts of what it was like to live in Russia as a vital member of the royal family when the political revolution was gaining momentum. In her novel, “The Romanov Sisters”, Rappaport explores the lives of the four Grand Duchesses, daughters of the Last Tsar of Russia.

Using uncovered diaries, letters, and historical documents, Rappaport gives her readers a very good look at what it meant to be the Royal family of Russia in the dying days of the Monarchy. It is hard to imagine that the people of Russia would ever want to be rid of their beloved Royal family, but the demand for a different form of government was greater that the deeply rooted love for the monarchy. Rappaport dug into the diaries of all the members of the Romanov family – including letters sent by Tsaritsa Alexandra to her grandmother, Queen Victoria of England – to discover what really happened during the short lives of Olga, Tatiana, Maria, and Anastasia, as well as their beloved little brother, Alexey. There have been so many

false accounts and conspiracy theories about what happened to the Grand Duchesses that even a cartoon movie has been made about the most popular theory – being that the youngest little duchess, Anastasia, somehow managed to survive the brutal blood bath that was her families final moments.

In her authors note at the very beginning of the book, Rappaport says that this book is about telling the real story of the Grand Duchesses. She believes in telling her readers nothing but the proven facts about the lives of the Romanov family. “This book is not for anyone wanting to read more about the much mythologized Anna Anderson aka Franziska Szankowska [Anastasia imposter from Poland], nor does it give the oxygen of publicity to the conspiracy theorists who continue to claim Anastasia’s survival - or that of any of her sisters - in the face of extensive and rigorous scientific analysis and DNA testing undertaken since the most recent discoveries the Koptiyaki Forest in 2007. This is a book about the real Romanov sisters.” I truly believe that anybody can read this book and uncover the true personalities and stories of each member of the Romanov family.

There are no conspiracy theories in this book. So if that is what you’re looking for, move right on past this author, because she believes in telling the truth, as much as she is able.



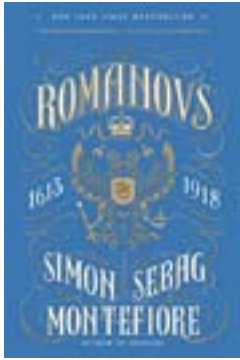
New York Times best-selling author, Helen Rappaport writes The Romanov Sisters.

Get your copy here.



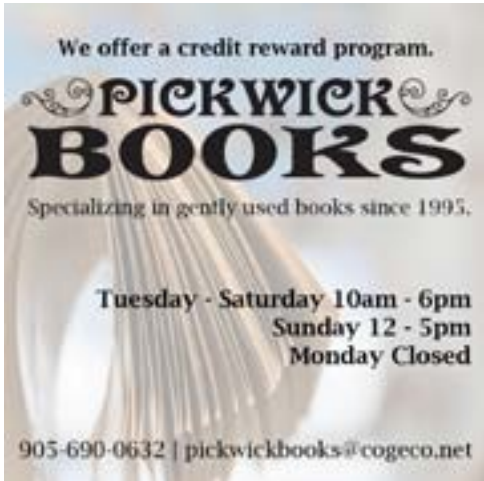
Enjoy this forensic tell-all by Helen Rappaport, highlighting the last 14 days of their lives.

You can order your copy here.



Skip history class and get ready for this insightful read about the Romanov family dynasty.

Get your copy here.





# Alice Through the Ages

By Ashley Macdonald

When you think of fairytales, what are the first to come to mind? Cinderella, Snow White and the Seven Dwarves, Rapunzel, The Little Mermaid? What about Alice in Wonderland?

This issue, we are celebrating the birthday of English author, Charles Lutwidge Dodgson, otherwise known as Lewis Carroll.

Ground, of the very story he had recounted on July 4th.

After showing Alice’s Adventures Under Ground to his friend, Scottish author George Macdonald, Dodgson was urged to find a publisher, as Macdonald’s children were so taken with the story. Encouraged, Dodgson revised the story for publication and added the famous

The overall plot of the game is that Alice witnessed the horrible death of her family at a young age. As a result, she suffered from survivor’s guilt and lost her grip on reality, ultimately getting sent to



Alice, the March Hare, the dormouse and the mad hatter at the latter's tea party. From ‘Alice in Wonderland’ by Lewis Carroll, 1st Edition, published in 1865. ILLUSTRATION BY J TENNIEL | PHOTO BY RISCHGITZ/GETTY IMAGES

## Celebrating Lewis Carroll and his beloved story, Alice in Wonderland, 154 years later.

In 1865, Dodgson wrote Alice’s Adventures in Wonderland, which was later shortened to Alice in Wonderland, under the pseudonym Lewis Carroll. Since then, Alice in Wonderland has become one of the top 10-best-selling, single-volume books of all time with approximately 100 million sold worldwide.

The inspiration for this fantastical children’s book came to Dodgson on July 4, 1862 when he invited the three daughters of his close friend, Henry Liddell, to a picnic. Along the way, Dodgson took the girls on a rowing boat, where they pleaded with him to tell them a story.

Having suffered from a stammer for all his life, Dodgson conversed better with children. Because of this, Dodgson came up with a whimsical story of a girl named Alice, who discovered a magical world when she fell down a rabbit’s hole.

Alice Liddell, the second oldest daughter, became so delighted that she begged him to write the story down for her, to which he complied. After adding some extra episodes and his own illustrations, Dodgson gave Alice Liddell a manuscript, titled Alice’s Adventures Under

scene of the Mad Hatter’s tea party and the Cheshire Cat. This manuscript, which became twice as long as the one given to Alice Liddell, was re-titled and Alice’s Adventures in Wonderland was born.

Alice’s Adventures in Wonderland has inspired so many great works from movies - both animated and live-action - to video games, plays and even music.

### Alice in Gaming

American McGee’s Alice is a third-person horror action-adventure game, which was originally released on PC in 2000 and is based on Carroll’s Alice novels.

Looking back now, this game may have been inappropriate for a child between the ages of seven and 10 years old but when has that ever stopped the youth of today?

Adapted as a sequel to Carroll’s novels, Alice has grown to be older, more cynical and gruesome. The game features a more macabre rendition of Wonderland than Carroll’s original portrayal and has been corrupted, as it is seen as a creation of Alice’s mind.

Rutledge Asylum with nothing but her stuffed rabbit.

10 years later, Alice finds herself sucked back into a Wonderland that has been twisted and corrupted as it came under the horrible rule of the Queen of Hearts. The objective of the game: save Wonderland and, in doing so, save Alice.

### Alice in Film

Filmmaker Tim Burton has since showed us his take on Carroll’s story of a girl who fell through a rabbit hole and found herself in a fantasy world of impossible things.

In true Tim Burton fashion, the setting is dark and eerie. What’s not overly surprising is that Burton’s Alice is, in a lot of ways, similar to American McGee’s’. As in American McGee’s Alice, Alice is no longer a little girl but has forgotten all about Wonderland.

About to be engaged, Alice spots a peculiar white rabbit in what looks to be a waistcoat with a watch and, as per Carroll’s original, she can’t help her curiosity and so she follows.

Tumbling back into what viewers see as a desolate version of Wonderland, Alice has the daunting

task of taking down the Queen of Hearts to restore Wonderland to its former glory.

Through her impossible journey, she re-develops forgotten friendships and learns what happened since she’d (apparently) been gone.

### Alice in Music

Countless songs have referenced Alice in Wonderland, including Jefferson Airplane’s 1967 psychedelic anthem White Rabbit from their Surrealistic Pillow album.

Many have said that Alice in Wonderland have a strong theme of drug use, what with bottles to make oneself grow or shrink. Jefferson Airplane’s White Rabbit follows this suggestion with lyrics such as:

“When the men on the chessboard get up / And tell you where to go / And you’ve just had some kind of mushroom / And your mind is moving low / Go ask Alice, I think she’ll know.”

- White Rabbit, Jefferson Airplane

Aerosmith’s song Sunshine also alludes to the theme of drugs in reference to Alice in Wonderland with lines crooned by Steven Tyler,

such as:

“I sold my soul for a one night stand / I followed Alice into Wonderland / I ate the mushroom and I danced with the queen”

- Sunshine, Aerosmith

Not only does Sunshine draw inspiration from the novel but the music video also features a scared-looking Alice, the Queen of Hearts, the White Rabbit, and Tyler playing the Mad Hatter.

Other songs inspired by Alice in Wonderland include: C’mon by Panic at the Disco

featuring Fun. and even Radiohead’s Pulk/Pull Revolving Doors, which was apparently inspired by the scene where Alice is in a hall of locked doors. Radiohead’s front man, Thom Yorke stated that,

“Revolving Doors for example, is something that happened in my brain where... Like, Alice in Wonderland. Where she walks down the corridor and there are lots of different doors. I was sort of in that corridor, mentally for 6 months. And that was an extremely central part, for me, what I was writing. ‘Cos every door I opened, it was like, dreading opening it. ‘Cos I didn’t know what was gonna happen next.”

Alice and the rest of Wonderland continues to inspire and influence so many genres, including literature, film, theatre, visual art, music, and games. It just goes to show that, one piece of literature can still influence the world of art more than 150 years after its creation.



Alice Liddell, age 7, photographed by Charles Dodgson (Lewis Carroll) in 1860

### The Story of Alice Liddell

There is no doubt that Alice Liddell gave her name to Dodgson’s whimsical character, although he has always denied that Alice was a portrait of Liddell. The fictional Alice had the same birthday as the real one, May 4th. Interestingly, the poem, Through the Looking Glass, starts with the first letter of every line spelling out the real Alice’s full name - Alice Pleasance Liddell.

Dodgson also seems to have taken the Liddell children’s alarming governess as inspiration for the Red Queen. Unfortunately, the relationship between Dodgson and the Liddells unraveled for reasons, which are unclear.

Alice Liddell grew up to be a beauty and even attracted the attention of Queen Victoria’s youngest son, Prince Leopold, Duke of Albany, but alas, nothing came of it. In 1880, she married Reginald Hargreaves and Dodgson sent her a wedding gift.

When her husband died in 1926, she was so short of money that she put the manuscript of Alice’s Adventures Under Ground, given to her by Dodgson up for auction at Sotheby’s. The price was £15,400, which is the equivalent of £450,000 or more today.

In her last years, she stated that she was ‘tired of being Alice in Wonderland’ and she died in 1934 at the age of 82.



# Printed Book vs. E-book: The Epic Literary Debate

By Ashley Macdonald

For centuries, printed books were all that was known to publishers and bookworms alike. Still today, thousands, if not millions, of readers still prefer the traditional book to the not-so-new-anymore e-book. However, this has started a debate between which is better: the printed book or the e-book? To help our readers, a list of pros and cons for each are listed below.

## Printed Book

In 1455, Johann Gutenberg produced the first book ever printed: The Gutenberg Bible. The Gutenberg Bible was printed in Latin in Mainz, Germany. Gutenberg’s invention led to a mass revolution, known as the Print Revolution, and by the end of the 15th century had spread to 236 countries in Europe, with more than 200 million books produced.

Newly discovered sea routes allowed trade links to be established, which also meant that Gutenberg’s press spread throughout the rest of the world.

By 1640, America had its very first book, the Bay Psalm (published in Cambridge, Massachusetts), of which there are still 11 copies known to be in existence.

Throughout the 1800’s the first mass-market paperbacks were born. “Penny dreadful” novels – named because they each cost a “penny” – were aimed primarily at the working class youth market and were printed on cheap “pulp” paper featuring reprints or rewrites of stories. Some popular stories included Black Bess or the Knight of the Road, Sweeny Todd and Varney the Vampire.

Sadly, May 10, 1933 marked the beginning of the burning of the books by the Nazi regime in order to control German history, culture, and ideology to fit the Nazi party. Over 25,000 volumes of “un-German” books were burned.

Luckily, books were able to thrive and in 1935, the first Penguin paperbacks were published. By March of 1936 – a mere 10 months after its foundation – Penguin had printed over 1 million books.

## Pros:

- Hearing the crack of a freshly opened book
- Smelling the pages
- Feeling the weight of it in your hands
- Tons of great bookmarks available to decorate the book while you’re not reading

## Cons:

- Can be cumbersome to carry around, especially if it’s hardcover
- Hardcover books can be heavy and awkward to hold when reading
- Once pages are wet, there’s no way to un-wrinkle them
- Bookmarks can easily be lost or misplaced when you’ve finished the book



## E-book

While computers had been around for some time before 1971, it was at this time that the first commercial microprocessor became available, which led to enabling the digitization of books. However, the process of digitization was a slow one at first.

In 1995, Amazon became the very first online bookseller. The idea was that users could go to Amazon and buy books without wasn’t limited to the volume offered by traditional book stores or mail order books. The first online book sold by Amazon was “Fluid Concepts and Creative Analogies: Computer Models of the Fundamental Mechanisms of Thought.”

By the turn of the 21st century, e-books became available and accepted as a publishing format even though their production commenced in the early 1970’s. Stephen King’s novella, “Riding the Bullet” led this development by being the first mass-market electronic book published in 2000. Within the first 24 hours of its release, over 400,000 electronic copies were sold.

Amazon, once again, was the leader of the e-book pack when it released the first dedicated e-book reader, which they named Kindle, on November 19, 2007. Initially only available in the US, the Kindle sold

out within 5 ½ hours and remained out of stock until late April 2008. By 2009, the Kindle was available in over 100 countries.

Since the launch of the Kindle, a number of other e-book readers have become available including Sony’s PRS-500 and PRS-505, Barnes & Noble’s Nook, and Apple’s iBooks app. With the launch of e-books and e-book readers, it’s greatly helped unheard of and self-published authors to publish their work at a much lower cost than using the paper format. Because of the massive support of the e-book, Sony predicted the e-books would outsell the paper format by 2015.

## Pros:

- Don’t need a light to read
- Bookmarking feature is built into the device
- Read using any device connected to the Cloud
- Oftentimes cheaper than paper format
- Ability to read more than one book at a time without having to carry each book everywhere

## Cons:

- At the mercy of charging the battery
- Requires downloading an app and/or buying an e-reader (Kobo, Kindle, etc.)
- Spend a lot of time staring at a screen
- Somewhat harder to track progress on Goodreads





# Spelling Errors in Writing, What Can We Do?

By Chantel Kelly

In this article, the reader will be able to see if words misspelled are intentional or not. It will also be covered if a reader buys an article with serious mistakes what they can do with the novel.

Everyone can understand that having some misspelled words or major errors in a novel they wish to enjoy can be annoying if it is reoccurring, but maybe sometimes it is not on accident as we seem for it to be.

Novels with spelling errors sometimes show us that the writer and even the editors are only human, yet as we read a novel andnotice even more errors it can be rather frustrating in ways; whether

what they can in a matter of a few days to a few weeks before giving it back to the writer or even just going ahead themselves and giving it to the publishing team who then put the book and its many prints and digital forms out to the public; edited completely or not.

Now this doesn't apply to every book, some people can just be very critical to an author they have been enjoying and all of a sudden there is an error in a book. It doesn't mean that the author has not had mistakes in their manuscript before, but it may mean that the editors or rare proofreaders may not have had time. Readers can also be very harsh critiques when it comes

they are not what makes our writing good or bad, says author and *Financial Times* columnist Lucy Kellaway" (BBC. 2014). This is a wonderful thing to think of as one is reading a book. Readers, anyone can understand how errors can make or sell a small piece of work, yet a whole novel if wonderfully written can excuse a few spelling mistakes and evensome grammar issues.

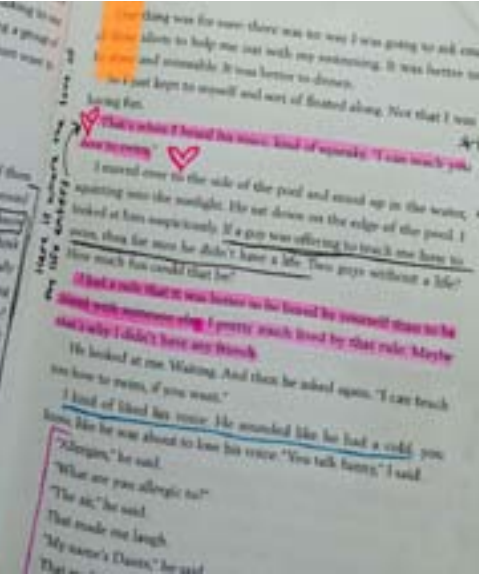
One other thing to think about is slang words in dialog. Just because it seems an author is having a spelling mistake, doesn't always mean it was an actual mistake. Looking carefully at the text, a reader could tell if it was because of how a character speaks. "Ya'll ain't nev'er been around dees parts before, have ya!?" Or even thinking dialog can just show characteristics of the character that need to be known to explain how they think, how they talk and to give the reader more visuals to perceive more on the character and to even find something relatable. That could be a goal of many writers and of course as readers we want to find something relatable to a character; so we can say if we love them, hate them, feel sorrow when something bad happens to them or even cry when they are finally killed off.

Now, of course if a book may have a major error in it; I.e too many words misspelled for it to be a proper published copy, pages missing or even pages in the wrong places; there are things someone can do. Well,

the one common thing would be to go spend the money on another book, but yet if you do not want to do that you could try reaching the book publishing team and let them know what is wrong with your book. They actually might send you a book for free, but it is nothing to be angry about if they decide to decline. It isn't a long shot in asking, and you should always let a publishing company know if something is terribly wrong with the book that was published because pages missing or in the wrong order is not something a publishing group or author want to be known for.

Remember readers, while spelling errors can be frustrating, we are all only human. Sometimes a spelling error can make your book unique in the fact that it could be one of the rare ones with such a mistake before

the final publishing. Characters are all different in books as well and just because there is a seeming "error" can actually be intentional. It all depends on how one looks at the dialog before them and how everything comes together to get to understand and become more personal with the book and the characters in it. Yet, it is important that even if one is a grammar freak, do not stress and go on and on about the spelling mistakes one finds in novels because no one is perfect, everyone is entitled to mistakes and it is rather easy to just go buy a copy without the mistakes or even talk to the publishing company than gripe about its mistakes.



Don't fret about the grammar, just enjoy the story

it be because one spent the money on the novel or because a person really does not enjoy spelling errors. Spelling errors in books also bring out the "elephant in the room" of the fact that books, while being more digital in appearance than physical, are still in a major demand; even moreso than when editors had a slew of proofreaders that they do not have any more despite the demand for more books to be published (Heffernan. 2011). This means that the writer has to be able to supply the book, get it to their editors where the editors go through

to books they have spent money on. A wonderful quote for readers who try to dwell on the spelling mistakes and grammar errors comes from a BBC article "We should not get overly obsessed with making spelling mistakes or typos, because



## Children Around the World: A Book with a Cause

By Leila Gorel

Leo Buijs has found a way to share his travel photographs of smiling children in his latest book, *Children Around the World*.

In the book, published by Blurb, Buijs has showcased his heart-warming images and formatted them in a coffee table book with descriptions and anecdotes from his travels.

Buijs, a retired entrepreneur and writer has had featured short stories in publications such as *Pique Whistler Magazine* and *The Gringo Gazette*.

Buijs has produced several books on topics such as beer, dog walking in Vancouver, BC to retiring to Mexico.

"I do these book for fun." Says Buijs over the telephone.

Although Buijs may write and publish the books for fun, *Children Around the World* was published in mind with supporting a cause.

Ten percent of the proceeds from book sales of *Children Around the World* will be donated to UNICEF to help ease child poverty. Click here to purchase the book.





# Under the Jewelled Sky is a Hidden Gem Worthy of a Read



Allison McQueen is the author of *Under the Jewelled Sky*. Image source: A. McQueen

By Leila Goreil

Looking a story as rich as it is moving? Then you’ve got to read Allison McQueen’s *Under the Jewelled Sky*. McQueen answered a few questions for Manuscript readers. Check out what she had to say.

**MANUSCRIPT:** *Under the Jewelled Sky* takes place in India in the late fifties. Where did the inspiration for this story come from?

**McQueen:** I was born in London during the swinging sixties when mixed marriages were still a rarity. My mother was born in Assam in 1928. She came to England thirty years later, never meaning to stay, and met my father, a strapping great Viking of a man.

*Under The Jewelled Sky* was inspired by memories of my mother’s friends; the women I would eavesdrop on, the hushed voices and grave expressions passed over teacups. My mother’s friends had grown up (many of them in India) in the days before such things were openly spoken of, but it was all there: domestic violence, unwanted pregnancies, addiction, ruin, and occasional salvation.

Bad marriages were commonplace, but divorce was unthinkable, and the brittle veneers of fake harmony were part of the everyday landscape. Morals and ethics were knotted up with religious doctrine and stiff upper lip. Respectable people did not wash their laundry in public, nor did they question what went on behind the closed doors of their neighbours’ houses.

**MANUSCRIPT:** The main character, Sophie is very strong.

**She faces many obstacles throughout the story, yet somehow stays so resilient. Did you find any challenges in writing her or any of the other characters?**

**McQueen:** I never carry a presumption about who my characters will be. I rarely know in advance what they look like or how they will behave. Sometimes a character will come crashing in fully formed, just as Sophie did. They always surprise me, even the ones who remind me of people I know. I don’t model my characters consciously at all, they just sort of turn up on the doorstep and ring the bell.

**MANUSCRIPT:** In this story, the male characters play large roles in both the story, and the life of Sophie. Was this a conscious decision in your writing?

**McQueen:** I grew up surrounded by strong male characters. Two elder brothers, a huge bear of a man for a father, and of course all the menfolk they knew.

**MANUSCRIPT:** The setting of India is deeply engrained in Sophie’s heart and in her person. What can you tell us about the idea for the setting?

**McQueen:** For me, the sense of place is so important in storytelling. Part of *Under The Jewelled Sky* is set in a maharaja’s palace. Although the fictional palace and its location are anonymous, I did have an

inside track into life inside an Indian palace. In her twenties, my mother was hired as the private nurse to the Maharaja of Indore’s mother-in-law.

**MANUSCRIPT:** What was the writing process like for you when you wrote *Under the Jewelled Sky*?

**McQueen:** The research for *Under The Jewelled Sky* took months. At the British National Archives, I unearthed declassified documents from the 1957 Macmillan government which would have caused a great deal of diplomatic embarrassment should they have been leaked at the time. Everything I read had been rubber-stamped Top Secret. *Under the Jewelled Sky* will, I hope, leave readers with an understanding of one of the largest forced human migrations of the 20th century, and just how far people will go in their quest to find their destiny.

**MANUSCRIPT:** The ending of your book is quite powerful. Did you struggle with the writing of it?

**McQueen:** The ending of *Under The Jewelled Sky* was, for me, was the starting point of the story. It could never have been any other way.

# Etsy Interview - Book Art Bookmarks

By Ashley Macdonald

Bookmarks are a must-have for any reader. One year ago today, bookmarks got a makeover. Margaux Mich, a loving mother of two young boys who loves going on nature adventures with her sons started Book Art Bookmarks.

Book Art Bookmarks was founded on the idea that books should have an elastic band like some notebooks do. After finding only bookmarks made of cloth, she decided to make her own.

Going into the local craft store, Margaux found the jewellery department and “went for it.”



Spending December 2017 crafting some designs and sharing them with other bookworms on Litsy, the feedback was very positive and by January 1st, Book Art Bookmarks had its Etsy store open.

Being a very mood-based person, there is no routine in the creative process but inspiration often comes from everyday things. “I could be on a walk with my children, see a bright colored leaf and be inspired to create,” says Margaux.

Although Margaux comes up with most of the designs herself, customers can also request custom



bookmarks. “The reading community is so creative. I love when customers ask for a new design. I love to see the different styles and interests people have,” Margaux explains.

With her favourite design constantly changing, custom orders are a favourite for Margaux to create. Requests for custom designs allow her to go on a quest to find the best charm and create a bookmark that they’ll love. Requests are often for a favourite series or as gifts.

Some designs take minutes to complete, while others take a couple of months. Because most designs are mood-based, inspiration often comes on suddenly.

As any book lover, Margaux loves to read. Her favourite place to read is under trees with a blanket as it reminds her of simpler times. When she’s not designing, Margaux can be seen with her sons and their dog, Pete, going on hike, playing in ponds, and going on adventures to farms.

Being a lover of strong female characters, it’s no surprise that Jeannette Walls, Sara J. Maas, and Canadian author, Ami Mckay are some of Margaux’s favourite authors. Half Broke Horses (Jeannette Walls) and The Birth House (Ami Mckay) are two of her all-time favourite novels, while A Court of Thorns and Roses (Sarah J. Maas) is her all-time favourite series. “When I read anything from these three women I feel like I’m going home,” quoted Margaux.

With so many quotes available, two really speak to Margaux. “It’s no use going back to yesterday, because I was a different person then” by Lewis Carroll is a favourite. “Resist much, obey little” by Walt Whitman is the one that often connects with her the most.





# Celebrity Authors: Worthy of the Title and Shelf Space?

By Ashley Macdonald

It seems like these days celebrities are filling the bookshelves and latest release columns in newspaper book sections with their latest cookbooks, lifestyle books or memoirs. A few notable names have tried their hand at writing fiction and kudos to them for that as it can be a hard market to get into. But is it really?

With names like Hilary Duff (*Elixir*, 2010), Lauren Conrad (*L.A. Candy*, 2009), Lauren Graham (*Someday, Someday Maybe*, 2011) and many more, the brand of the actor or actress definitely lends a hand to their written work.

For example, when Lauren Conrad, who starred in the hit MTV shows “Laguna Beach” and “The Hills” took the world by storm with the drama of west-coast living, friendships, dating

and amazing career opportunities. After two hit shows, clothing lines, partnership with Target and her own blog, Conrad took to writing books.

In 2009, Conrad wrote the first of her series, *L.A. Candy*, which ranked number one on the *New York Times* Bestseller List in 2009 in the Children’s Chapter Books category. She then put out the last two books in the series, *Sweet Little Lies* and *Sugar and Spice* in 2010.

It seems celebrities are really taking over the bookshelves and adding author to their title on their resumes. Are they writing worthy material to earn themselves the title of a real author?

Bill Clinton recently partnered with James Patterson and released *The*

*President is Missing*, 2018, and the reviews were flawless.

But was it because Clinton partnered with notable author, James Patterson whose books include, *Along Came a Spider*, *Alex Cross*, *Kiss the Girls* and many more, has established a broad audience of male and female readers.

During the week of August 5, 2018, *The President is Missing* was ranked number two in both Print & E Book Fiction and Hardcover Fiction categories on *The New York Times* Bestseller lists.

Lena Dunham’s *Not That Kind of Girl* (2014), whose collection of short stories highlighted thin, narcissistic experiences and was received with mix emotions.

On October 19, 2014 it ranked number two on *The New York Times* Bestseller list and Sloane Crosley of *The New York Times* said “...the book was often hilarious but not ground breaking in content.”

So, looking at this slim sample of author writings, is it safe to say that when a celebrity writes a book, they sell?

Many articles and discussions have taken place over whether or not it’s worth it to follow celebrity endorsed books and publishers cashing in on the name and brand that follows.

Julie Bosman of *The New York Times*, wrote the article In their own words. Maybe? In 2011 on the eve of a resurgence of celebrity written books and many other

critics question whether or not celebrities actually put pen to paper or if ghostwriters are involved and apparently, we as consumers would be naïve to think otherwise.

Whatever celebrities put their names on, if there are fans, it sells. The quality doesn’t matter - it’s remarked on but never mentioned. If their name is on the cover, you can bet it’s going to be read.

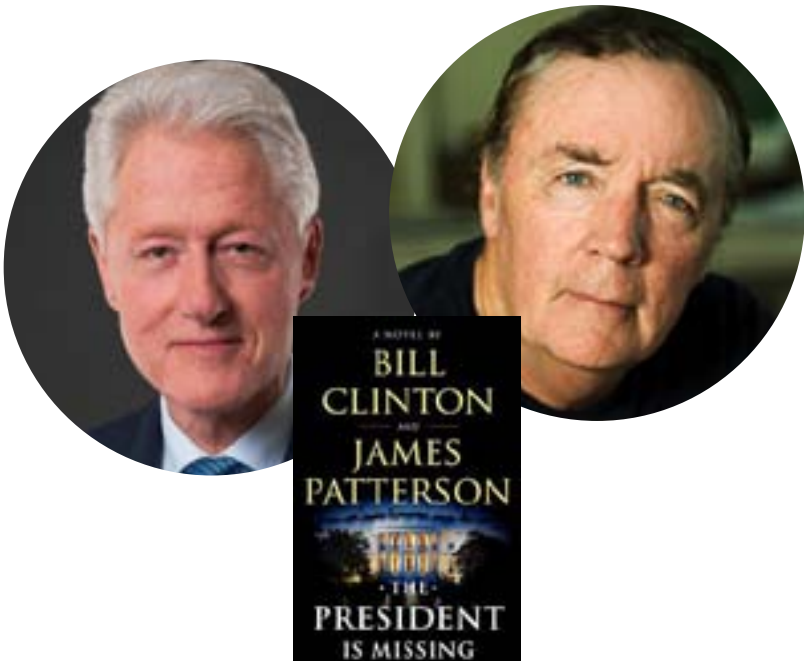
Do you read celebrity books? If so, let us know on Facebook.

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# A Whimsical Romance Set in the World of Twitter

By Leila Goreil

**MANUSCRIPT: *Goodnight Tweetheart* centres around the use of social media and the connection of two people. How did that idea come to your mind?**

**Mediros:** When Twitter was brand new, before all of the political vitriol and selfpromotion took over, I found it a delightful way for strangers to connect and have interesting conversations with each other. (In *Goodnight Tweetheart*, Mark calls it a “perpetual cocktail party”.) I also very much enjoyed condensing my own musings and conversations to 140 characters or less because my brain tends to think in “tweets” anyway. It was like writing haiku! I loved the idea of these two lonely people beginning this casual relationship with a lot of snappy banter a la “Gilmore Girls”, and then finding that relationship deepening in ways that neither one of them expects. For the reader, it’s very intimate, like eavesdropping on a conversation between two people as they’re falling in love.

.....  
*A modern love story in 140 characters or less*  
.....

**MANUSCRIPT: *Goodnight Tweetheart* kind of stands out from your other romance writing? Did you plan on this?**

**Mediros:** Mark and Abby started “tweeting” in my head long before I sat down to write their story. I felt so strongly about writing *Goodnight Tweetheart* that I remember calling my agent in New York and telling her, “I am GOING to write this book. It doesn’t matter if a publisher will buy it or not, I HAVE to tell this

story.” Luckily, Pocket Books, my publisher at the time, was as enthralled by the idea as I was. I had toyed with the contemporary period in my time travel romance, *Breath of Magic*, but this was the first time I’d actually written contemporary women’s fiction. Because the book was about a writer struggling with writer’s block, I was also able to include several autobiographical touches. My heroine, Abby Donovan, even has cats named “Buffy the Mouse Slayer” and “Willow Tum-Tum” just like I did at the time.

**MANUSCRIPT: In a world of swiping right, online profiles and in the case of your characters, social media, do you think online love has made it harder or easier to find that special someone?**

**Mediros:** I think it’s easier to find a “someone” now or even an “anyone”, but finding that “special someone” has never been easy. To me, casual connections too easily rob romance and sex of the power they’re supposed to have in our lives.

**MANUSCRIPT: You’ve written a lot of books! How do you keep the spark alight as a romance author with your characters and their stories? What inspires your stories?**

**Mediros:** I’ve always said that I have the best job in the world. I get to fall in love with an amazing new man with every book and my husband



Teresa Mediros is the author of *Goodnight Tweetheart*  
Image source: T. Mediros

doesn’t even mind as long as those checks keep coming! To me, the greatest inspiration has always been the privilege of living my characters’ lives along with them. Lauren Bacall once said that she became an actress because “living one life wasn’t enough for her” and I feel the same way about my writing. I’m definitely a “method writer”. When I’m writing a novel, I’m experiencing every emotion right along with the characters. When I was writing *Thief of Hearts*, every time my heroine sneezed, I would actually sneeze! I’m also inspired by the very act of putting words on paper and moving them around until they feel “right” to me. To me, it’s like writing music so I’m always trying to hit the right “note” with the words and sentences themselves.

**MANUSCRIPT: What do you think makes your romance novels stand out from your competitors?**

**Mediros:** My agent always used to say that my books made her both laugh and cry and she felt that was a rare thing. I truly believe that life is made up of joy and sorrow, but I do love the idea that no matter what I put them through, I can always guarantee my characters a happy ending.

**MANUSCRIPT: How did you come to write your first book? What was your first novel?**

**Mediros:** I wrote my first book, *Lady of Conquest*, when I was 21 years old. I was too young to know how hard it was supposed to be so I sat down at my mother’s kitchen counter with my old Smith-Corona typewriter and started writing the book that I wanted to read. After MANY revisions, I sold the book to Berkley Books and signed a 3-book contract. I think being young enough to have no fear was a big help!

**MANUSCRIPT: If someone was reading your books for the first time, which book/series would you recommend they read first?**

**Mediros:** I think it would depend on the reader’s tastes. If you’d enjoy a funny medieval, definitely *Charming the Prince*. If you like a touch of magic with your romance, *Breath of Magic* and *Touch of Enchantment* would be a great place to start. For more traditional Regency, there’s *A Kiss to Remember* and *One Night of Scandal*. Any of those would give you a nice “taste” of my writing voice.

**MANUSCRIPT: How has social media helped you with being an author?**

**Mediros:** It’s given me a wonderful new way to connect with readers all over the world. I have a very active Facebook page with over 53,000 people and my readers make me smile every single day. Writing can be a lonely profession so social media has become a real blessing. You can find me on Facebook at <http://www.facebook.com/teresamedeirosauthorpage>

**MANUSCRIPT: What’s the most romantic date that you’ve ever**

**been on?**

**Mediros:** I was a registered nurse when I met my husband so would you believe cheeseburgers in the hospital cafeteria when I was on my supper break because that’s when he proposed to me?



Order your copy of *Goodnight Tweetheart* here.





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# Beyond the Stacks: The Librarian Behind the Books

By Leila Goreil

Gina Sheridan is a librarian in Missouri and the author of *I Work at a Public Library: A Collection of Crazy Stories from the Stacks*. She took the time to chat with Manuscript and dish on why she loves reading, her library and more.

**MANUSCRIPT:** Why did you write *I Work at a Public Library: A Collection of Crazy Stories from the Stacks*?

**Sheridan:** *I Work at a Public Library* started as a Tumblr blog. It was a place I could keep track of all of the funny, heartwarming, goofy things that happen when a microcosm of our society congregates in one of the most democratic places in the world: the public library. At first, all of the stories were my own. As time passed, friends who worked in libraries began to send me their own stories. A few years ago, I opened the blog up to submissions and I received stories from around the world! After entering (but not winning) a blog-into-book publishing contest, a literary agent in New York took notice of my Tumblr and reached out to me. The rest is history!

**MANUSCRIPT:** You currently still work at a public library. What’s a typical day like for you?

**Sheridan:** I currently work in a bustling neighbourhood library branch in St. Louis, Missouri. One thing I like most about being a librarian is that no two days are alike. I can be working on staff schedules or other administrative tasks, but then walk out to the library to answer questions, help someone find a book to read, play a game with one of our library kids,



fill a display case with local artwork, or help someone register to vote. It’s never a dull day at the library and that’s how I like it.

**MANUSCRIPT:** You started an all-ages book club in a reading garden. First off, what’s a reading garden and how has your book club fared?

**Sheridan:** After getting a group of neighbours together to help me build a Little Free Library and a reading garden, I started an all-ages reading club. Anyone who wants to join just shows up at a certain time during the summer, claims a seat and a book, and we have sustained silent reading time for the first half of the hour. During the second half of the hour, anyone who is interested can read a passage from their book. There is no pressure, so you can read what you like and you can read at your own pace. It’s a great place to meet neighbours and celebrate reading.

**MANUSCRIPT:** Your second book, *Check these Out: One Librarian’s Catalog of 200 Coolest, Best, And most Important Books You’ll Ever Read* features a myriad of stories. How did you narrow this list down to 200 and what was your criteria for them to make the list?

**Sheridan:** *Check These Out* is a snapshot of some of the books that made an impact on me throughout my life. So much has happened in my city, and in the U.S., and in my life since the book list was compiled and published. So many important books were published since then! If I’m honest, I’m a bit embarrassed by the list now. It’s not that I think those titles are no longer important, but if I had a chance to write a follow-up *Check These Out*, I would include a wider range of authors and topics. People’s reading interests are so fluid and often reflect what is going



on in one’s life--I’m no different.

**MANUSCRIPT:** Libraries have always been a comfort to people and are considered a pillar in most communities. What does your library do that makes it so special?

**Sheridan:** My library is so special! It is a beautiful new building with a lot of light and a lot of character. Many

the library, and several artists have done live painting sessions in the library. The variety of items we lend at the library keeps growing. Besides books, we lend tabletop games, musical instruments, telescopes, bibliotherapy kits (book discussion kits parents and caregivers can use to broach a variety of hard-to-discuss topics with their children), video games, and more. I love that we keep expanding our collection!

**MANUSCRIPT:** Describe your love of reading. What do books/reading mean to you?

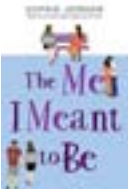
**Sheridan:** Reading is such a privilege. You know when you see a great piece of art or hear a beautiful melody or play a really well-designed board game and are just blown away by the sheer genius of it all? That’s how I feel about my favourite books and authors. The good ones are so good, they almost hurt. An essay called “Am I Blue” by Alice Walker comes to mind. Books like *The Lover’s Dictionary* by David Levithan, *The House on Mango Street* by Sandra Cisneros, *Nectar* by Upile Chisala, and *When You Reach Me* by Rebecca Stead are others. Ugh, so good!

## Author and librarian shines light on Love for library

of our library patrons are kids and teens, and most of our patrons live within walking distance. It’s easy to get to know people and their interests and uniqueness. My library is in a federally designated Promise Zone, a high-poverty, economically distressed area which sees its share of challenges. Many children rely on the library for a safe and stable place to spend time away from home and school. During the school year, we work with an organization to provide after school meals to kids, and during the summer we give away hygiene items, shelf-stable weekend meal kits, and have a summer lunch service. We have a teen advisory group, which is a group of teens who meet once per month to plan unique and fun programs like afterhours laser tag. We invite local artists to showcase their work in



01



**The Me I Meant to Be**  
Sophie Jordan  
*Contemporary Romance*

08



**The Wicked King**  
**(Folk in the Air #2)**  
Holly Black  
*YA Fantasy*



**She Lies in Wait**  
Gytha Lodge  
*Thriller*



**Freefall**  
Jessica Barry  
*Thriller*



**In Paris With You**  
Clémentine Beauvais  
*YA Romance*



**Bloodwitch**  
**(Witchlands #3)**  
Susan Dennard  
*YA Fantasy*



**White Stag**  
**(Permafrost #1)**  
Kara Barbieri  
*YA Fantasy*



**Slayer**  
**(Slayer #1)**  
Kiersten White  
*YA Fantasy*



**With or Without You**  
Jodi Ellen Malpas  
*Women's Fiction*



**Undying**  
**(An Unearthed Novel)**  
Amie Kaufman and Meagan Spooner  
*Sci-Fi YA*



**The Au Pair**  
Emma Rous  
*Thriller*

10



**Don't You Want Me**  
Mhairi McFarlane  
*Romantic Comedy*



**Only a Breath Apart**  
Katie McGarry  
*YA Romance*

14

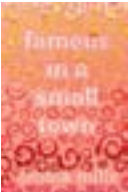


**Time**  
**(Law of Physics #3)**  
Penny Reid  
*Contemporary Romance*

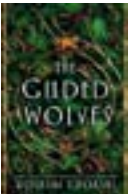


**Ransacker**  
**(Berserker #2)**  
Emmy Laybourne  
*YA Fantasy*

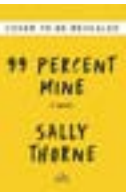
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**Famous in a Small Town**  
Emma Mills  
*Contemporary YA*



**The Gilded Wolves**  
**(The Gilded Wolves #1)**  
Roshani Chokshi  
*YA Fantasy*



**99 Percent Mine**  
Sally Thorne  
*Romantic Comedy*



**That's Not What I Heard**  
Stephanie Kate Strohm  
*Contemporary YA*



**A Curse So Dark and Lonely**  
Brigid Kemmerer  
*YA Fantasy*

19



**Three Little Words**  
**(Bridesmaids Behaving Badly #3)**  
Jenny Holiday  
*Contemporary Romance*



**King of Scars**  
**(King of Scars #1)**  
Leigh Bardugo  
*YA Fantasy*



05



**Courting Darkness**  
**(His Fair Assassins #4)**  
Robin LaFevers  
*YA Fantasy*



**On the Come Up**  
Angie Thomas  
*Contemporary YA*



**The Night Olivia Fell**  
Christina McDonald  
*Domestic Suspense*



**Legend**  
**(An Arizona Vengeance Novel)**  
Sawyer Bennett  
*Romance*



**More Than Words**  
Jill Santopolo  
*Women's Fiction*

12



**Watching You**  
Lisa Jewell  
*Suspense*



**Nick and June Were Here**  
Shandala Stanley  
*YA Romance*

19



**I Owe You One**  
Sophie Kinsella  
*Women's Fiction*

26



**Royal Bastard**  
Avery Flynn  
*Romance*



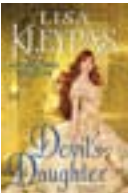
**Stone Cold Heart**  
**(Tracers #13)**  
Laura Griffin  
*Romance*



**Warrior of the Wild**  
Tricia Levenseller  
*YA Fantasy*



**The Beauty of the Moment**  
Tanaz Bhathena  
*YA Romance*



**Devil's Daughter**  
**(The Ravenels #5)**  
Lisa Kleypas  
*Historical Romance*



**Fix Her Up**  
**(Hot & Hammered #1)**  
Tessa Bailey  
*Contemporary Romance*

01



**What the Wind Knows**  
Amy Harmon  
*Historical Romance*



**Bloodleaf**  
Cystal Smith  
*YA Fantasy*

05



**Daisy Jones & the Six**  
Taylor Jenkins Reid  
*Women's Fiction*



**If You're Out There**  
Katy Loutzenhiser  
*YA Romance*



**We Told Six Lies**  
Victoria Scott  
*YA Mystery*

12



**Soaring With Fallon**  
**(A Big Sky Novel)**  
Kristen Proby  
*Contemporary*



**Heroine**  
Mindy McGinnis  
*Contemporary YA*

19




**Never-Contented Things**  
Sarah Porter  
*Contemporary YA*

27



**The Continent**  
Keira Drake  
*YA Fantasy*





# MANUSCRIPT

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