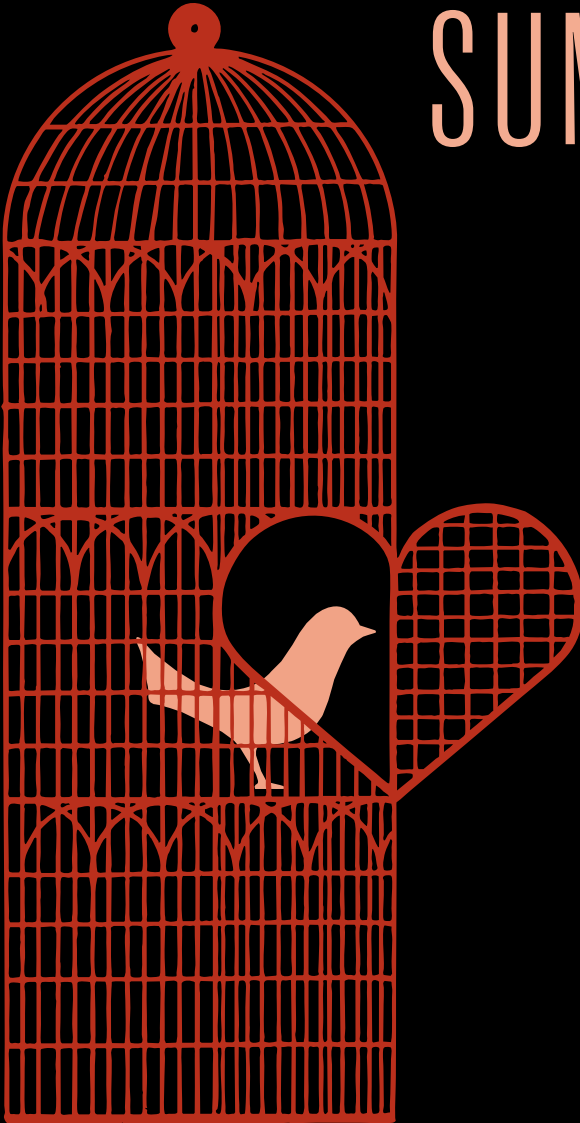


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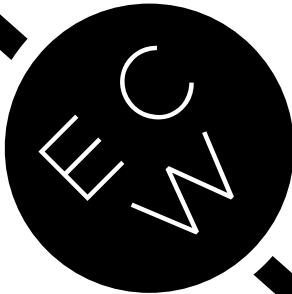
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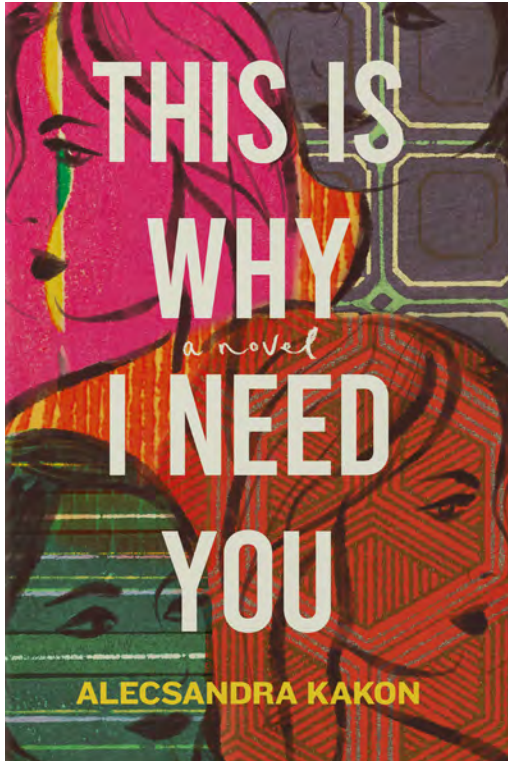
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Publication Date: May 12, 2026

5.5 x 8.5", 352pp, trade paperback

24.95 CDN / 19.95 U.S.

FICTION / WOMEN (FIC044000)

FICTION / FRIENDSHIP (FIC071000)

FICTION / LGBT / LESBIAN (FIC018000)

ISBN: 978-1-77041-857-8 (Paperback)

Rights Available: World, all languages

Film Rights: Controlled by Transatlantic Agency

THIS IS WHY I NEED YOU

A NOVEL

Aleksandra Kakon

Character-driven and full of heart, This Is Why I Need You is a sharply observed debut that captures the realities of lifelong friendships and explores romance, motherhood, sexuality, and loss.

With the promise of nothing but fun in the sun, Zinnia, Fay, Kiara, and Valentina are all geared up to reconnect on their 10th annual girls' trip that brings them together from all different cities. What they don't know, however, is that some baggage comes on vacation whether you pack it or not. Their outside lives slowly seep into their seaside getaway, and when the weekend proves to be a series of secrets, snide remarks, and non-stop bickering, tensions escalate. Suddenly they are all forced to wonder: Have they outgrown their childhood friendships?

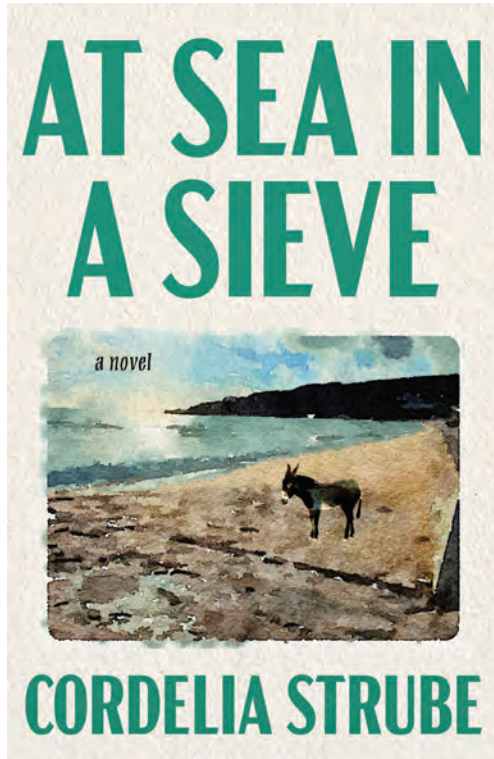
Shedding light on the power and complications of lifelong friendships, *This Is Why I Need You* questions the choices we make in life that can bring us closer together with — or pull us further apart from — the people we need most: our friends.

Aleksandra Kakon is an English Literature professor at Concordia University and Dawson College. She holds an MA in Hispanic Literature and a Ph.D. in Comparative Literature. Alongside her academic pursuits, she published *My Profile Projects*, an online series of personal essays that tell the collective memoir of 52 womxn. Aleks lives in Montreal with her three incredible children, Azalea, Ivy, and Brighton.



KEY SALES NOTES

- **FOR FANS OF:** A heartfelt read that celebrates the power of enduring friendships during life's messiest, most pivotal moments. Perfect for longtime fans of *Sex and the City* or those who rooted for the love and struggles in *Valeria*, *Friends from College*, and *Girls*, or want a grown-up *Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants* to celebrate womanhood in all its complexity.
- **A DIVERSE MONTREAL:** Set against the vibrant, multicultural backdrop of Montreal, *This Is Why I Need You* weaves an addictive multi-POV narrative featuring characters from richly varied backgrounds, careers, and experiences: Val, a Hispanic full-time writer; Kiara, a half-Jamaican, half-Jewish educator and body positivity advocate; Zinnia, a Lebanese runner, former dancer, and photographer; and Fay, a French Canadian gallery owner. The multiculturalism at the heart of these characters is essential to capturing the soul of Montreal.
- **GREAT FOR BOOK CLUBS:** Readers are sure to see some of themselves in one or all of the characters and will be eager to share their thoughts with their friends.
- **SEXUAL IDENTITY:** One of the storylines of the book is a queer love story with one character in her 30s who has a later-in-life sexual awakening, having previously only been with men.



Publication Date: June 16, 2026

6 x 9", 600pp, trade paperback

28.95 CDN / 23.95 U.S.

FICTION / LITERARY (FIC019000)

FICTION / LEGAL (FIC034000)

FICTION / FAMILY LIFE / GENERAL (FIC045000)

FICTION / HUMOROUS / BLACK HUMOR
(FIC060000)

ISBN: 978-1-77041-860-8 (Paperback)

Rights Available: World, all languages

Film Rights: Controlled by ECW

AT SEA IN A SIEVE

A NOVEL

Cordelia Strube

A sharp and moving portrait of Ray — judge, single parent, and tightly leashed woman whose survival strategies seem suddenly to be coming apart

Ray, a single mother and superior court judge, pounds a punching bag in her basement to manage her anger. She has concluded that life must be lived tightly leashed or chaos will move in. Her prime directive is to protect her daughter, Armada, from life's unruly forces. Ray deftly handles other people's problems, managing her courtroom and the politics of the judges' chambers, and defusing her neighbors' battles, all the while staying above the fray. But when her feckless, sweet brother re-enters Ray's life, bringing unpredictability and wayward emotion with him, and her sexy, but enervating Guatemalan ex crashes into her world, she realizes that her carefully piloted ship is not watertight after all — it's no better than a sieve. Cascading events reveal to Ray that suffering cannot be held at bay and that life must be lived in all its messy glory.

Peopled with a cast of characters for the ages, from the eccentrics that surround Ray's courtroom and her street to a flock of recalcitrant hens, and laden with her trademark sly wit, this is Strube's best novel yet — sharp, intensely humane, moving, and funny.

Cordelia Strube is the author of 11 critically acclaimed novels. Winner of the CBC literary competition, she has been nominated for the Governor General's Award and the Trillium Book Award and longlisted for the Scotiabank Giller Prize. Her novel *On the Shores of Darkness There Is Light* won the City of Toronto Book Award. Strube divides her time between her Toronto home and her country house in Yarker, ON.



KEY SALES NOTES

- **FOR READERS OF:** Miriam Toews and Heather O'Neill.
- **CRITICALLY ACCLAIMED AUTHOR:** Strube's previous work is critically acclaimed by the *New York Times Book Review*, *Newsday*, and all of Canada's national newspapers, and Strube has been a finalist for every major Canadian literary award, including the Giller Prize, Governor General's Award, and Amazon.ca First Novel Award.
- **HUMOROUS AND TRAGIC:** Cordelia Strube is a master of black comedy storytelling, blending humor and heartbreak in a way that rivals Jonathan Tropper at his finest. Her portrayal of characters is deeply empathetic yet unflinching as she navigates flawed personalities in difficult circumstances.



Publication Date: June 23, 2026

5.5 x 8.5", 384pp, trade paperback

24.95 CDN / 19.95 U.S.

FICTION / SCIENCE FICTION / CYBERPUNK
(FIC028100)

FICTION / SCIENCE FICTION / APOCALYPTIC & POST-APOCALYPTIC (FIC028070)

FICTION / DYSTOPIAN (FIC055000)

ISBN: 978-1-77041-841-7 (Paperback)

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Rights Available: World, all languages

Film Rights: Controlled by ECW

LAVENDER SPIKE

Rachel Tremblay

“Lavender Spike is that rarest thing in fiction: a truly unique dystopia, one that shuns simple allegory and plays by its own strange and fascinating set of rules. In a just world, everyone would be obsessed with this book.” — Jason Pargin, bestselling author of John Dies at the End and I’m Starting to Worry About This Black Box of Doom

“Pain, passions, and violence are conveyed as agonizingly and earnestly here as they were in the Hunger Games and Handmaid’s Tale cycles... . Cautious brush strokes help sell this speculative story of art as the basis of a future police state.” — Kirkus Reviews

Isobel “Izzy” Ker, the last working artist of the Old Holy Order, lives a life of poverty in the Dumps outside of Mahl City, covertly selling her illegal paintings to the Old Order’s few remaining devotees. But when her studio is ransacked by the city’s enforcers, her only choice is to seek refuge with the Half-Light Rebels, a gang of anti-art radicals and glorified thieves.

She agrees to help the rebels, but their first mission goes south, and Izzy is arrested and brought before the leader of the oppressive New Art Government, a group that keeps people in check by feeding their addiction to a novel and dangerous craft, Trigger Art. Izzy has a choice: Convert to their way of life, using her skills to debut as a Trigger Artist, or rot in the city’s infamous prison. Izzy accepts and is thrust into the spotlight, now intoxicated by the luxury and power afforded her, not to mention her handsome bodyguard, Rilke. The wild, engrossing act of creating her first public piece almost makes her forget what life was like in the Dumps. Almost. All the while, Izzy is fanning the flames of rebellion, working in secret with the rebels and preparing to unveil her audacious debut piece.

Written by a rising star in science fiction, *Lavender Spike* is a bold, wholly original cyberpunk novel in which art is both drug and religion.

Rachel Tremblay is a painter, writer, and musician. A youth filled with guitar shredding, horror movies, skateboarding, and poetry led her to produce two music albums, study fine arts, and pen stories. She lives in Montreal with her husband and two adult children. *Lavender Spike* is her fifth novel.



KEY SALES NOTES

- **MAKE WAY FOR REVOLUTION:** Readers of *The Hunger Games*, now all grown up, will love *Lavender Spike* for its complex heroine and challenge of social constructs. Fans of *The Fifth Element* and the *Mad Max* franchise will also connect with Tremblay’s wholly original cyberpunk world.
- **WELL-CONNECTED AUTHOR:** Rachel Tremblay is a bilingual (English/French) artist, musician, and writer from Montreal. She is a very active Instagrammer with 7.2K followers, mostly other Bookstagrammers, and also has an art account with several thousand followers. Bestselling author Jason Pargin, who has 500K followers on TikTok, has already enthusiastically blurbed the book.
- **PRAISE FOR LAVENDER SPIKE**
 - “*Lavender Spike* crackles with the spirit of power and creation. Rachel Tremblay’s newest novel is a visceral and poignant examination of the purpose of art that poses the question, ‘Can art truly be a catalyst for change?’ Brimming with action, *Lavender Spike* will take readers on a journey that will inspire, enthrall, and excite the imagination.” — **Karen McBride, author of Crow Winter**
 - “*Lavender Spike* is a luminous adventure, delicate and poignant to the very end. You won’t want to miss it!” — **Kayla Ancrum, award-winning author of The Wicker King and Icarus**
 - “A wild acid-trip dive into alleyways where art is both drug and religion — with all the vivid color and darkness that comes with both. A very I-need-a-cigarette-after-reading journey.” — **Nathan Makaryk, actor and author of Nottingham**
- **EDGY, THOUGHTFUL SCIENCE FICTION:** A unique dystopian novel focusing on a world of art and artists.



Publication Date: August 25, 2026

5.5 x 8.5", 256pp, trade paperback

24.95 CDN / 19.95 U.S.

FICTION / WOMEN (FIC044000)

FICTION / FAMILY LIFE / GENERAL (FIC045000)

FICTION / THRILLERS / PSYCHOLOGICAL
(FIC031080)

FICTION / NATURE & THE ENVIRONMENT
(FIC077000)

ISBN: 978-1-77041-863-9 (Paperback)

ISBN: 978-1-77852-549-0 (ePub)

ISBN: 978-1-77852-549-0 (Kindle)

Rights Available: World, all languages

Film Rights: Controlled by CookeMcDermid Agency

FRET

A NOVEL

Nadia Bozak

A propulsive and incisive novel: a frazzled mother of two's precarious situation is made more so when her idling car is stolen — with her young daughter still in it — and all her life choices, both big and small, are opened up to the scrutiny of the internet, her community, and ultimately, herself.

"Nadia Bozak is a tremendous talent." — Zoe Whittall, author of The Fake

Once a rising star of indie rock, Kate is now a middle-aged single mom living far out of the spotlight. Everything changes for her when an unprecedented heat wave and a stolen car set off a chain of events that threaten to upend her new, peaceful life. Fired from her job, separated from her children, and overwhelmed by public shaming, Kate must navigate the cold realities of the child welfare and family court systems while struggling to stay cool in an increasingly unbearable world.

Determined to rebuild, Kate finds herself forging new connections and fostering a sense of community — something she hasn't felt since her music career ended in disaster more than a decade before. As Kate finds a new voice, she makes her way back to her children and her love of music, and steps closer to reconciling with her former bandmate and arch-rival: her little sister.

If building community is Kate's way of reckoning with the mistakes of her past, can it also be a way to mitigate the deeper, more urgent issues and structural injustices that threaten our future?

Nadia Bozak lives in Ottawa with her family and is a faculty member in the Department of English at Carleton University. *Fret* is her fifth book.



KEY SALES NOTES

- **A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR, PIA SINGHAL:** This is a really propulsive book, with a lot of depth to it. There's a small, quickly resolved thriller aspect that gives this book a very commercial and engaging lean, but that mystery breaks open an entire world of questions about climate change and personal responsibility. It has that quality of one's worst nightmares coming to pass that makes Ashley Audrain's books so compelling — but the book is worth reading alone for its depictions of financial precarity, the oppressive heat of a city summer, feeling like one should have more to show for one's life than one does, and how acceptance and surrender are not the same thing."
- **PRAISE FOR NADIA BOZAK:**
 - "Nadia Bozak's coming-of-age snapshots are a gentle reminder of all that's immediate and fleeting. Wistful, distinct, and full of life." — **Iain Reid, author of *I'm Thinking of Ending Things*, on *Thirteen Shells***
 - "*El Niño* is a blazing novel about desperation and courage, survival and death, borders and barriers of all sorts and what it takes to break through. Nadia Bozak's characters are fierce, brave, and haunting. Stylistically brazen and wildly suspenseful, this novel charges and snaps, sinks its teeth in, and doesn't let go." — **Lisa Moore, author of *Caught*, on *El Niño***



THE QUEEN OF FLORIDA

A CRIME NOVEL

Jeff Bercuson

A wickedly entertaining romp featuring retired widow June who delves into the deep underbelly of paradise — Boca — to get everything she knows she deserves

June has spent a lifetime tending to the infinite needs of her four children, especially the youngest, Jimmy, who was the black sheep from the very beginning and who has dragged her down to hellish places she never expected or wanted to go: court, rehab, *prison*. After Jimmy's latest relapse, June makes a break for it. She heads south to a place where so many like her have found their happiness: Boca. For the first time in her life, she does what she wants — until Jimmy knocks on her door unannounced with that strange hollow look in his eyes.

But the prodigal son is not made for paradise, and he disappears not long after he arrives. June's search for him draws her into the shadiest corners of this sunlit Shangri-La, where there are dirty cops, ambitious gangsters, and vicious henchmen waiting for her. Opportunities wait in the darkness, too. And after a lifetime of sacrifice and self-denial, *why shouldn't* June partake of them? After all, Florida is expensive — she needs a new roof, a new car, a new face — and June is on a fixed income. Plus, you can't become the queen without breaking a few rules.

Publication Date: August 18, 2026

5.5 x 8.5", 240pp, trade paperback

24.95 CDN / 19.95 U.S.

FICTION / MYSTERY & DETECTIVE / WOMEN SLEUTHS (FIC022040)

FICTION / THRILLERS / CRIME (FIC031010)

FICTION / MYSTERY & DETECTIVE / TRADITIONAL (FIC022030)

ISBN: 978-1-77041-682-6 (Paperback)

Rights Available: World, all languages

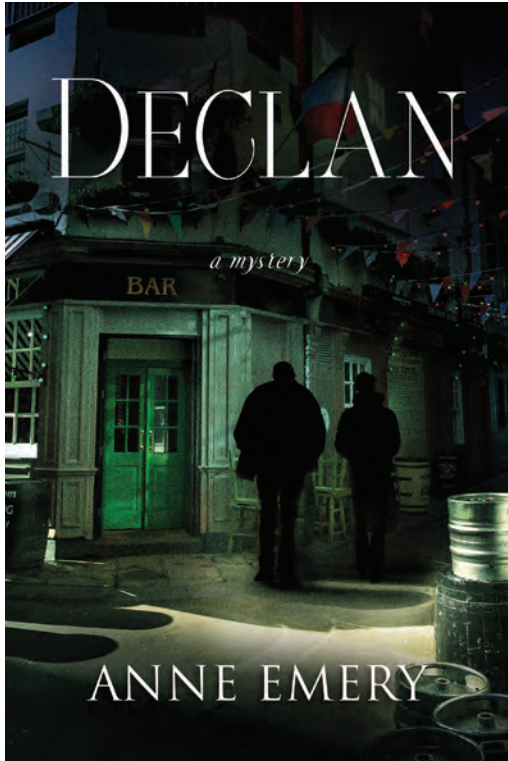
Film Rights: Controlled by ECW

Jeff Bercuson was born and raised in Toronto, where he lives with his wife and two children and teaches in the School of English and Liberal Studies at Seneca Polytechnic. For the longest time, he wanted to be a philosopher, and he wrote two books trying to prove that he was one. Then he realized that we get much closer to the truth by making up stories. *The Queen of Florida* is his first novel.



KEY SALES NOTES

- **A BOLD TWIST ON A CLASSIC GENRE:** When the detective dies on page 50 (spoiler!), the mystery truly begins. This genre-defying hook flips expectations and sets up a wickedly entertaining chain of events.
- **AN UNEXPECTED ANTI-HERO:** A retired widow from Boca Raton takes center stage in a genre typically reserved for down-on-their-luck PIs. She brings a sharp wit and a deadly edge to Florida's seedy underbelly.
- **FOR FANS OF ELMORE LEONARD AND CARL HIAASEN:** Gritty, funny, and packed with violence, this novel blends sun-drenched noir with a love letter to the greats of the genre.



Publication Date: June 9, 2026

6 x 9", 380pp, trade paperback

26.95 CDN / 21.95 U.S.

FICTION / MYSTERY & DETECTIVE / INTERNATIONAL CRIME & MYSTERY (FIC022080)

FICTION / MYSTERY & DETECTIVE / TRADITIONAL (FIC022030)

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DECLAN

A MYSTERY

Anne Emery

Two-time Crime Writers of Canada Award-winning author Anne Emery is back with another mystery

"[Anne Emery] really is a fine writer; not just a good storyteller but a stylist as well: every word of her prose feels carefully chosen for the way it interacts with the words around it." — Booklist

"[Anne Emery] really is a fine writer; not just a good storyteller but a stylist as well: every word of her prose feels carefully chosen for the way it interacts with the words around it." — Booklist

Father Brennan Burke's father, Declan, gathered up his family and fled Ireland under the cover of night four decades ago after disobeying an order from his commanding officer in the IRA. Declan has not set foot in Ireland since. Until now. Why now? And why not? What could go wrong after all this time? All he tells his family is that "it's time" to see his beloved homeland again. But sons Brennan and Terry, knowing their father's checkered past, suspect there is more to this sudden impulse than merely "it's time," so they insist on going with him.

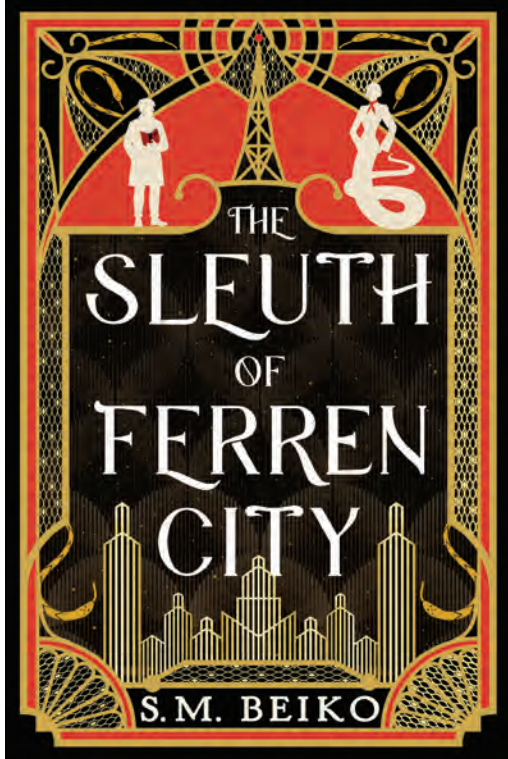
And sure enough, when they get to Ireland, there are men in the shadows. Knowing. Waiting to settle old scores. After an evening in the pubs of Dublin, Declan and Brennan call it a night, but Terry isn't ready to leave his barstool quite yet. The next morning when Brennan wakes up, he sees that Terry never came home. Had the men in the shadows missed their chance to grab Declan and taken Terry instead? Brennan and Declan are frantic to find him, and they call upon the services of Declan's brother Finn and Brennan's old friend Detective Shay Rynne. As Brennan searches for the motives behind this action against his family, he is joined by lawyer Monty Collins, and they learn things about Brennan's father that he had never wanted revealed. The revelations are not limited to the Burke family's long campaign against the British occupiers of their country. Some matters are much more personal.

Anne Emery is a lawyer and author of the Collins-Burke mystery series. She has won the Crime Writers of Canada awards for Best Novel and Best First Novel, the Dartmouth Book Award for Fiction, and an Independent Publishers silver medal. She lives in Halifax, Nova Scotia.



KEY SALES NOTES

- **AWARD-WINNING AUTHOR:** Emery is a highly decorated author: winner of the Crime Writers of Canada Award for Best Crime Novel (2019), the Dartmouth Book Award for Fiction (2011), and the Crime Writers of Canada Award for Best First Novel (2007). She was nominated for the Crime Writers of Canada Award for Best Traditional Mystery in 2023 for *Fenian Street*.
- **BESTSELLING SERIES:** The Collins-Burke series has been a fan favorite since 2007, and this is the 14th book in the series, though it can be read as a standalone.



Publication Date: June 30, 2026

5.5 x 8.5", 340pp, trade paperback
none

23.95 CDN / 17.95 U.S.

YOUNG ADULT FICTION / MONSTERS (YAF041000)

YOUNG ADULT FICTION / LGBT (YAF031000)

**YOUNG ADULT FICTION / MYSTERIES &
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YOUNG ADULT FICTION / FANTASY / ROMANCE
(YAF019060)

ISBN: 978-1-77041-697-0 (Paperback)

Rights Available: World, all languages

Film Rights: Controlled by ECW

THE SLEUTH OF FERREN CITY

THE BRINDLEWATCH QUINTET, BOOK
THREE

S.M. Beiko

In the third installment of the Brindlewatch Quintet, a novel adventure awaits in the bright lights of the big city

Monsters are real. Well, monstros are, anyway — an emerging group of citizens trying to find their place in Brindlewatch, ever since the Camillites made a splash in the small town of Quixx, and the Jettites climbed out of their subterranean city beneath Lake Mallion. The Far Cities are bristling with newcomers looking for a fresh start in this brand-new world, but is it as safe for them as they think?

Sable, a Camillite who still lives on Mount Quixx, isn't so sure. She sees the world through the distorted lens of the novels she steals from Professor Bedouin's observatory and is slow to trust the strangers in the world beyond the page. She is a side-character in her own story, and she wants to keep it that way.

But a desperate letter begging for help rewrites Sable as the protagonist sleuth of her favorite novels, and hot on the trail trying to find her vanished friend, Sable uncovers more than she bargained for in the bright lights of the big city: a famous author with the ability to make every monster's dream come true, a dastardly underworld targeting vulnerable monstros, and a sweet bookseller who may be at the heart of the mystery.

And on the airwaves, a broadcast like no other promises a bold new world for everyone. Will Sable find her voice and save those terrified of speaking up, before it's too late?

S.M. Beiko is a Winnipeg-based fantasy author and award-winning graphic novelist. Her work includes *The Lake and the Library*, the Realms of Ancient trilogy, and the in-progress Brindlewatch Quintet. Beiko has won the Aurora Award and was nominated for the Joe Shuster Award in 2020 for her original graphic novel *KRAMPUS IS MY BOYFRIEND!*



KEY SALES NOTES

- **DELIGHTFUL AND UPBEAT:** For a younger YA audience, with charming and relatable characters, lively dialogue, and a focus on friendship and found family. The books charm you with their warmth and heart, making the world just a little bit brighter.
- **DIVERSE VOICES:** Beiko is bisexual, and in this series of standalone novels, nearly every character falls under the LGBTQ+ umbrella. Plenty of queer romance ensues!
- **PRAISE FOR THE SERIES:**
- “Fans of Diana Wynne Jones and TJ Klune will find much to love in this wholly original novel that blends science and magic, modernity and tradition, and features a sweet monster romance, found families, kooky characters, and a pair of sisters whose fraught relationship is central to their coming-of-age stories.” — *Kirkus Reviews*, **starred review of *The Stars of Mount Quixx***
- “A hot ticket, chockablock with memorable performances.” — *Kirkus Reviews*, **starred review of *The Door on Lake Mallion***
- **BUZZY AUTHOR:** The first two books in the series were both nominated for the Aurora Award in the Best Young Adult Novel category, and *The Stars of Mount Quixx* was shortlisted for the 2024 CCBC Book Awards Arlene Barlin Award for Science Fiction and Fantasy. Beiko is a master of self-promotion and a much-beloved figure in the science fiction and fantasy community in Canada.

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The ECW office is situated on land that was the traditional territory of many nations, including the Wendat, the Anishinaabeg, Haudenosaunee, Chippewa, Métis, and the Mississaugas of the Credit, the latter of whom completed negotiation of a Treaty No. 13 known as the "Toronto Purchase" begun in 1787, negotiated in 1805, and re-negotiated in 2010. It was a sandy oak savannah on a hill rising westward from Heward Creek, one of Toronto's lost ravines. In the 1880s, the land was developed as part of a growing community around St. Matthew's Anglican and other churches. In the 1950s, our neighborhood, now known as East Chinatown, was transformed by people moving into the area, dispossessed by the building of Nathan Phillips Square and subsequent rise in real estate value in Old Chinatown, and immigrants fleeing the Vietnam War. We are grateful to those who cared for the land before us, and we are proud to be working now amidst this mix of cultures.

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